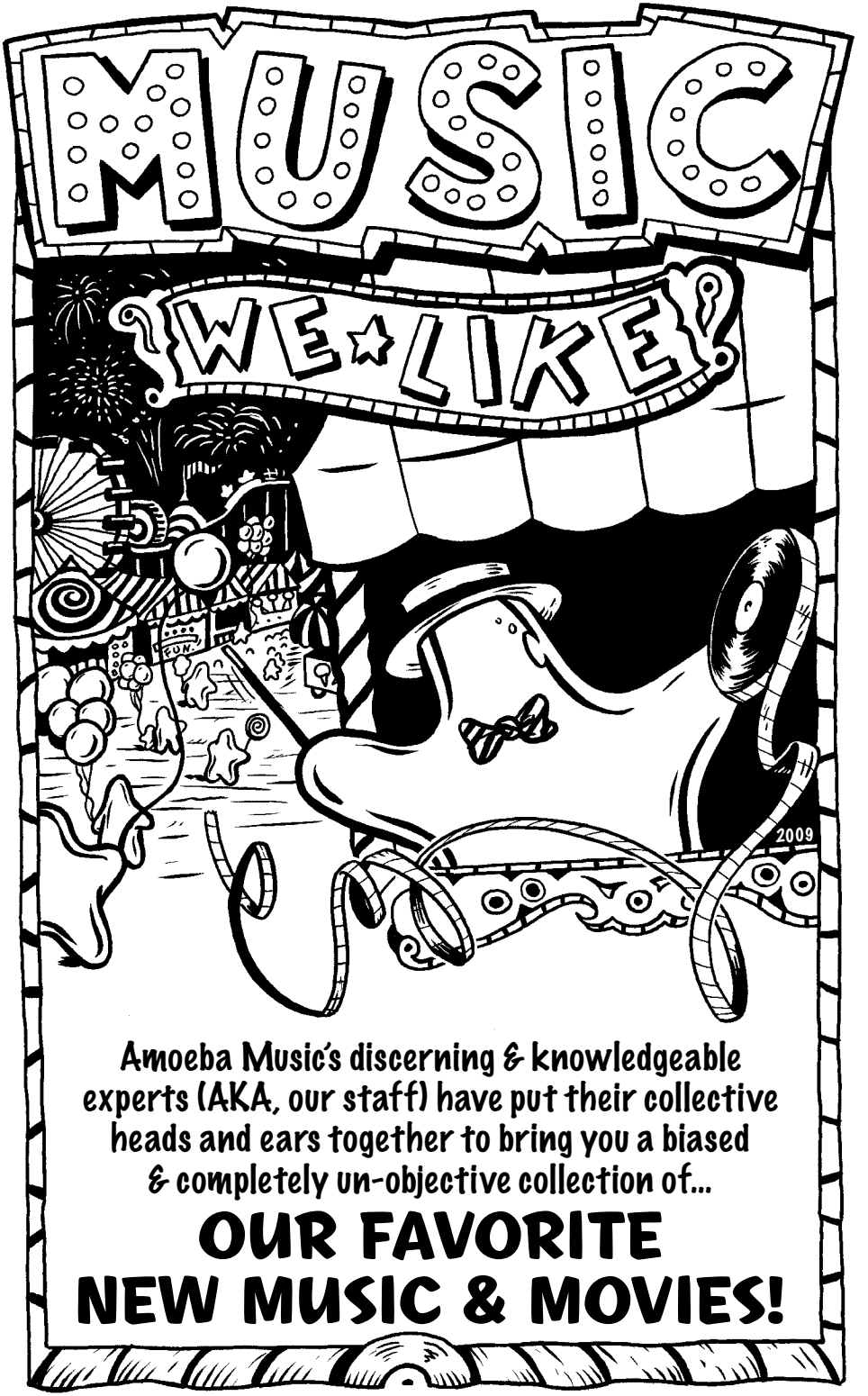

Amoeba Music's discerning & knowledgeable experts (AKA, our staff) have put their collective heads and ears together to bring you a biased & completely un-objective collection of...

OUR FAVORITE NEW MUSIC & MOVIES!

Welcome to Amoeba Music – the BIGGEST independent music store in the country!

Amoeba Music has become synonymous with music and movie expertise, from the arcane to the popular. Our staff consists of the most passionate connoisseurs of all cultural explorations, from the people who check your bag to the folks who buy your used goods at the front counter!

All Amoebites were asked to list their top five favorite releases from the last half of 2008 and beyond! We then had a team of experts decipher some cryptic handwriting, analyze the results and compile the lists into this little book!

We hope you find the results interesting and helpful!

SOME HELPFUL HINTS:

- Our USED selection is fully guaranteed to play perfectly. Buying used means you can get more for your money – and many out-of-print & rare items that are ONLY available used!
- The new items are designated with a white price tag. The used items have yellow, green or red price tags. The "red tags" indicate clearance items. Clearance items have an ongoing deal; buy three, get the fourth of least value for FREE!
- All the sections have clearance areas at the end of their respective used sections. Don't forget to look underneath the bins for extra bargains which may not be represented in the above corresponding bin. There are tons of nuggets hiding in pockets all over this store, so be sure to look all around!

HAPPY HUNTING!

If you didn't already know...

All three Amoeba stores host free, all-ages live shows and events throughout the year to showcase our favorite local and worldwide talent.

Visit Amoeba.com's video gallery for footage and interviews of our awesome in-stores.

A sampling of recent live in-stores at Amoeba:

Chris Isaak
Mark Farina
Taj Mahal
Neko Case
Glasvegas
Master Musicians of Jajouka
Franz Ferdinand
Esperanza Spalding
Evidence
Jackson Browne
Yo Gabba Gabba!
David Lynch

Visit the Amoeba Music website to watch live streaming performances, in-store videos on demand, find listings of upcoming in-store performances, view photo galleries of past shows, find top seller lists, read blogs, enter contests, check out promotions and TONS more! Also, sign up for our weekly newsletter to get info on our in-stores and promotions delivered right to your inbox. Or subscribe to our RSS feed.

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(323) 245-6400

A SAMPLING OF OUR FAVORITES BY GENRE

CDs & LPs

ROCK

Blitzen Trapper — *Furr* (SUB POP)

Department Of Eagles — *In Ear Park* (4AD RECORDS)

The Week That Was — *The Week That Was* (MEMPHIS INDUSTRIES)

The Pains Of Being Pure At Heart — *The Pains Of Being Pure At Heart* (SLUMBERLAND, FORTUNA POP, AND LOST & LONESOME)

Antony & The Johnsons — *Crying Light* (SECRETLY CANADIAN)

Animal Collective — *Merriweather Post Pavilion* (DOMINO)

Andrew Bird — *Noble Beast* (FAT POSSUM)

School Of Seven Bells — *Alpinisms* (GHOSTLY INT'L)

Little Joy — *Little Joy* (ROUGH TRADE)

***Dark Was The Night* — Various Artists** (4AD RECORDS)

Morrissey — *Years Of Refusal* (LOST HIGHWAY)

David Byrne & Brian Eno — *Everything That Happens Will Happen* (TODO MUNDO)

Omar Rodriguez Lopez — *Old Money* (STONES THROW)

A.C. Newman — *Get Guilty* (MATADOR RECORDS)

The Bird & The Bee — *Ray Guns Are Not Just The Future* (BLUE NOTE RECORDS)

Franz Ferdinand — *Tonight: Franz Ferdinand* (SONY)

Dan Auerbach — *Keep It Hid* (NONESUCH)

Deerhunter — *Microcastle* (KRANKY)

Marianne Faithfull — *Easy Come Easy Go* (101 DISTRIBUTION)

Vetiver — *Tight Knit* (SUB POP)

Phosphorescent — *To Willie* (DEAD OCEANS)

M. Ward — *Hold Time* (MERGE RECORDS)

Marissa Nadler — *Little Hells* (KEMADO)

Beirut — *March Of The Zapotec* (POMPEII/BA DA BING)

John Doe & The Sadies — *Country Club* (YEP ROC RECORDS)

Bon Iver — *Blood Bank* (JAGJAGUWAR)

Death — *...For the Whole World to See* (DRAG CITY)

Lily Allen — *It's Not Me, It's You* (CAPITOL)

Ladyhawke — *Ladyhawke* (MODULAR RECORDINGS)

Black Lips — *200 Million Thousand* (VICE)

Cursive — *Mama I'm Swollen* (SADDLE CREEK)

Decemberists — *Hazards of Love* (CAPITOL)

Glasvegas — *Glasvegas* (COLUMBIA)

Mstrkrft — *Fist of God* (DOWNTOWN)

Bonnie Prince Billy — *Beware* (DRAG CITY)

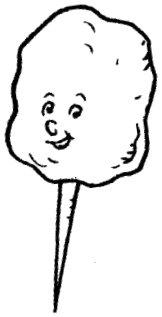
HIP HOP

Johnson+Jonson — *Johnson+Jonson* (TRES RECORDS)

E-40 — *Ball Street Journal* (REPRISE RECORDS)

Jake One — *White Van Music* (RHYMESAYERS)

Q-Tip — *The Renaissance* (UNIVERSAL MOTOWN)



MURS & 9th Wonder — *Sweet Lord* (REPRISE RECORDS)

Bored Stiff — *The Sad Truth* (HELLA RECORDS)

40Love — *Bangerang*

Zion I — *The Takeover* (GOLD DUST)

Exile — *Radio* (PLUG RESEARCH)

Madlib — *Beat Konducta Vol 5-6: A Tribute To J Dilla* (STONES THROW)

Black Milk — *Tronic* (MUSIC HOUSE / FAT BEATS RECORDS)

John Robinson, Produced by MF Doom — *Who is This Man?* (SHAMAN WORK RECORDINGS)

T.I. — *Paper Trail* (GRAND HUSTLE/ATLANTIC)

Mighty Underdogs — *Droppin' Science Fiction* (DEFINITIVE JUX)

88-Keys — *The Death of Adam* (DECONSTRUCTION)

Bambu — *...Exact Change...* (COMMUNITY KITCHEN RECORDS)

Ludacris — *Theater of The Mind* (DTP/DEF JAM)

P.O.S. — *Never Better* (RHYMESAYERS)

Jean Grae — *Jeanius* (BLACKSMITH)

The Knux — *Remind Me in 3 Days* (INTERSCOPE)

The Tones — *Dreamtalk* (PLUG LABEL)

Illa J — *Yancey Boys* (DELICIOUS VINYL)

Madlib — *WLIB AM: King Of The Wigflip* (RAPSTER)

Cy Young — *Exactly!* (FAT BEATS)

K'NAAN – *Troubadour* (UNIVERSAL)

N.A.S.A – *Spirit of Apollo* (ANTI)

SOUL

Grace Jones – *Hurricane* (WALL OF SOUND)

Labelle – *Back To Now* (VERVE)

***Love Train: The Sound Of Philadelphia* – Various Artists** (SONY LEGACY)

Anthony Hamilton – *The Point Of It All* (LA FACE)

Musiq Soulchild – *On My Radio* (ATLANTIC)

Raphael Saadiq – *The Way I See It* (SONY RECORDS)

The Vibrations – *The Vibrating Vibrations: The Okeh and Epic Singles 1963-1968* (KENT)

Lafayette Afro Rock Band – *Darkest Light* (K7)

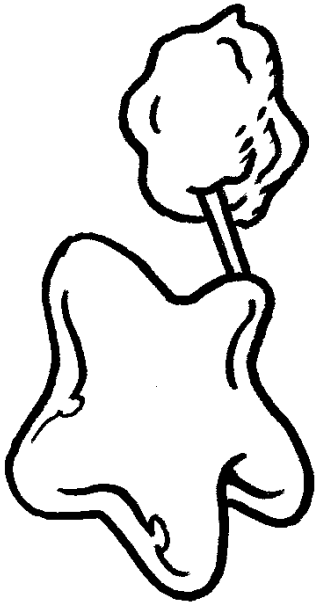
Menahan Street Band – *Make the Road By Walking* (DAPTONE)

***Take Me to the River: A Southern Soul Story* – Various Artists** (KENT)

Jazmine Sullivan – *Fearless* (RCA)

Jonelle Monae – *Metropolis* (BAD BOY)

Ryan Leslie – *Ryan Leslie* (UNIVERSAL)



ELECTRONIC

Harmonic 313 —*When Machines Exceed Human Intelligence*
(WARP RECORDS)

Maurice Ravel/Modest Mussorgsky — *Recomposed by Carl Craig & Moritz Von Oswald*
(DEUTSCHE GRAMMOPHON)

Junior Boys — *Begone Dull Care*
(DOMINO)

Blackbelt Andersen — *Blackbelt Andersen* (FULL PUPP, MUDD'S CLAREMONT 56)

John Tejada — *Fabric 44* (FABRIC)

***I Love Dubstep* — Various Artists**
(RINSE FM)

Kuniyuki Takahashi — *Remixed*
(MULE MUSIQ JAPAN)

INTRUSION — *The Seduction Of Silence* (ECHOSPACE)

Skull Disco — *Soundboy's Gravestone Gets Desecrated by Vandals* (SKULL DISCO)

Señor Coconut — *Around The World* (PLAY IT AGAIN SAM UK)

Metro Area — *Fabric 43* (FABRIC)

Windsurf — *Coastlines* (INTERNAS-JONAL)

Fujiya & Miyagi — *Lightbulbs*
(FULL TIME HOBBY / DEAF DUMB & BLIND)

Yagya — *Rigning* (SENDING ORBS)

Royksopp — *Junior* (ASTRALWERKS)

Alice Russell – *Pot of Gold* (SIX DEGREES)

Stimming – *Reflexions* (DIYNAMIC)

Mr. Scruff – *Ninja Tuna* (NINJA TUNE)

JAZZ

Revolutionary Ensemble — *Beyond The Boundary Of Time*
(MUTABLE MUSIC)

Mary Halvorson Trio — *Dragon's Head* (FIREHOUSE 12 RECORDS)

Benny Golson — *New Time, New 'Tet* (CONCORD RECORDS)

Michael Moore — *Fragile*
(RAMBOY RECORDS)

Tony Dryer/Jacob Felix Heule/ Jacob Lindsay — *Idea Of West*
(CREATIVE SOURCES)

Steven Bernstein's Millenial Territory Orchestra — *We Are MTO* (MOWO INC)

William Parker Quartet — *Petit Oiseau* (AUM FIDELITY)

Taylor Ho Bynum Sextet — *Asphalt Flowers Forking Paths*
(FIREHOUSE 12 RECORDS)

Jenny Scheinman — *Crossing The Field* (KOCH RECORDS)

David S. Ware — *Shakti*
(AUM FIDELITY)

Sonny Rollins — *Road Shows Vol. 1* (DOXY)

Achim Kaufmann/Mark Dresser/ Harris Eisenstadt — *Starmelodics*
(NUSCOPE)

Zu — *Carboniferous* (IPECAC)

Lafayette Gilchrist — *Soul Progressin'* (HYENA)

Francisco Mela — *Cirio: Live At The Blue Note* (HALF NOTE RECORDS)

Nina Simone — *To Be Free: The Nina Simone Story* (SONY LEGACY)

Joshua Redman — *Compass*
(NONESUCH)

Ran Blake — *Driftwoods*
(TOMPKINS SQUARE)

COUNTRY AND BLUEGRASS

Hank Williams – *The Unreleased Recordings* (BOX SET)
(TIME LIFE ENTERTAINMENT)

Buddy & Julie Miller – *Written In Chalk* (NEW WEST RECORDS)

The Flatlanders – *Hills And Valleys* (NEW WEST RECORDS)

Neko Case – *Middle Cyclone* (ANTI)

Willie Nelson And Asleep At The Wheel – *Willie & The Wheel*
(BISMEAUX PRODCUTIONS)

Charlie Louvin – *Sings Murder Ballads And Disaster Songs*
(TOMPKINS SQUARE)

Lucinda Williams – *Little Honey*
(LOST HIGHWAY)

Brad Paisley – *Play* (RCA VICTOR)

Ernest Stoneman – *The Unsung Father Of Country Music 1925-1934* (5-STRING PRODUCTIONS)

FOLK

Nimrod Workman – *I Want To Go Where Things Are Beautiful* (DIVORCE RECORDS)

Fotheringay – 2 (FLEDG'LING)

Edgar Meyer/Chris Thile – *Edgar Meyer & Chris Thile* (NONESUCH)

Joan Baez – *Day After Tomorrow*
(RAZOR & TIE)

David Bromberg Quartet – *Live In New York City 1982*
(APPLESEED RECORDS)

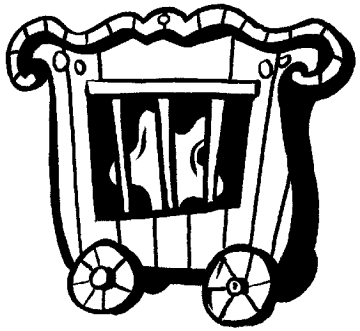
Polk Miller – *Polk Miller & His Old South Quartette*
(THOMPKIN SQUARE RECORDS)

John Martyn – *Ain't No Saint*
(UME IMPORTS)

Odetta – *Odetta Sings Dylan*
(RCA VICTOR)

Tim Hardin – *1* (VERVE / FORECAST)

Pete Seeger – *At 89*
(APPLESEED RECORDINGS)



BLUES AND NEW ORLEANS

Beausoleil – *Alligator Purse*
(YEP ROC RECORDS)

***Cajun: Rare & Authentic* – Various Artists** (JSP)

Elvin Bishop – *The Blues Rolls On*
(DELTA GROOVE MUSIC)

B.B. King – *One Kind Favor*
(GEFFEN RECORDS)

Taj Mahal – *Maestro* (HEADS UP)

Buddy Guy – *Skin Deep* (ZOMBA)

Guy Davis – *Sweetheart Like You*
(RED HOUSE)

***Chess Chartbusters, Vol. 1-6* – Various Artists** (SPECTRUM AUDIO UK)

***Ain't Times Hard: Political and Social Comment In The Blues* – Various Artists** (JSP RECORDS)

***Bob Geddin's Irma Records Story* – Various Artists**
(ACROBAT RECORDS)

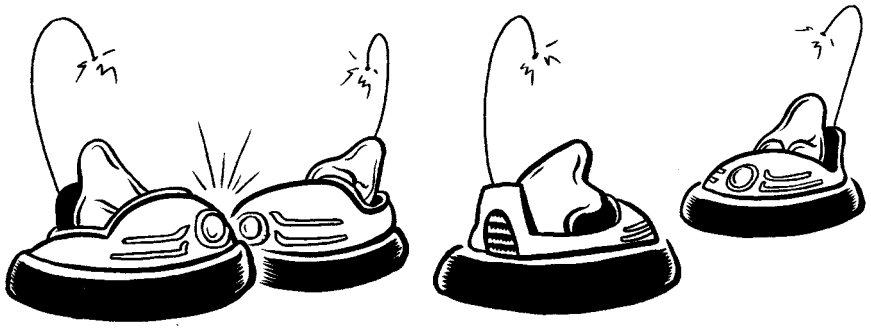
***Bob Geddin's Big Town Records Story* – Various Artists**
(ACROBAT RECORDS)

***Trilon Records Story 1946 to 1948* – Various Artists**
(TRILON / ACROBAT RECORDS)

WORLD

The Master Musicians of Jajouka featuring Bachir Attar – *Jajouka Live Vol. 1* (JAJOUKA RECORDS)

***Al Tarab: Muscat Ud Festival* – Various Artists** (ENJA)



Ferran Savall – *Mireu El Nostre Mar* (ALIA VOX SPAIN)

Orchestre Poly-Rythmo de Cotonou – *The Vodoun Effect: Funk & Sato From Benin's Obscure Labels Vol. 1* (ANALOG AFRICA)

Los Cenzontles with David Hidalgo – *Songs Of Wood & Steel* (LOS CENZONTLES)

El Tanbura – *Between The Desert And The Sea* (WORLD VILLAGE USA)

***Sprigs Of Time: 78s From The EMI Archive* – Various Artists** (HONEST JONS)

Group Inerane – *Guitars From Agadez* (SUBLIME FREQUENCIES)

Savina Yannatou & Primavera en Salonico – *Songs Of An Other* (ECM RECORDS)

Afrissippi – *Fulani Journey* (AFRISSIPPI)

Buika – *Niña De Fuego* (WEA INTERNATIONAL)

Curumin – *JapanPopShow* (QUANNUM)

John Santos Y El Coro Folkorico Kindembo – *La Guerra No* (JOHN SANTOS)

***Tribute to Oum Kalsoum* – Various Artists** (UT)

Juana Molina – *Un Dia* (DOMINO)

***Salsa A Musical History* – Various Artists** (FANIA / UMGD)

Femi Kuti – *Day By Day* (DOWNTOWN)

Buena Vista Social Club – *At Carnegie Hall* (NONESUCH)

Acquaragia Drom – *Rom Kaffe* (DUNYA)

Kinky – *Barracuda* (NETTWERK)

Rokia Traore – *Tchamantche* (WARNER)

Amadou & Mariam – *Welcome to Mali* (NONESUCH)

Los Fabulosos Cadillacs – *La Luz Del Ritmo* (NACIONAL)

Zoe – *Reptilectic*

Calle 13 – *Los De Atras Vienen Conmigo*

***Arriba La Cumbia* – Various Artists**

Tinariwen – *Live In London* (DVD)

Franco – *Vol. 1-Francophonic: A Retrospective*

***Marvellous Boy: Calypso From West Africa* – Various Artists**

Mexican Institute Of Sound – *Soy Sauce*

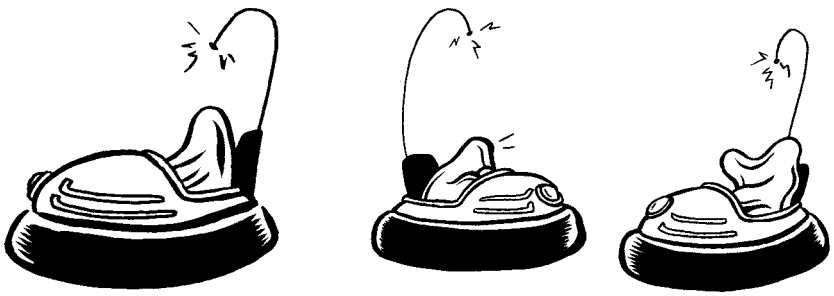
REGGAE / DANCEHALL

Alborosie – *Soul Pirate* (FORWARD RECORDING)

Midnite & Youssoupha Sidibe – *For All* (SACRED SOUND RECORDS)

Jimmy Radway & The Fe Me Time All Stars – *Dub I* (PRESSURE SOUNDS)

***Dancehall: The Rise of Jamaican Dancehall Culture* – Various Artists** (SOUL JAZZ RECORDS)



Lucky Dube – *Retrospective* (RYKODISC)

Beres Hammond – *A Moment In Time* (VP)

***Soul Jazz Records Presents: Dancehall* – Various Artists** (SOUL JAZZ)

CLASSICAL

***Violin Concertos/In Tempus Praesens* — J.S. Bach/ S. Gubaidulina (Anne-Sophie Mutter/Valery Gergiev/London Symphony Orchestra)**

***Partitas 2, 3 & 4* — J.S. Bach (Murray Perahia)**

***Ideals of the French Revolution* — L. van Beethoven (Maximilian Schell/Adrianne Pieczonka/Kent Nagano/Montréal Symphony Orchestra)**

***String Quintets Opp 4 & 29* — L. van Beethoven (The Nash Ensemble of London)**

***Oppens Plays Carter (Elliott Carter at 100), The Complete Piano Music* — E. Carter (Ursula Oppens)**

***Sonatas Nos 2 & 3/Two Nocturnes/Berceuse/Barcarolle* — F. Chopin (Marc-André Hamelin)**

***For Christian Wolf* — M. Feldman (California E.A.R. Unit)**

***Das Lied von der Erde* — G. Mahler (Stuart Skelton/ Thomas Hampson/Michael Tilson Thomas/San Francisco Symphony)**

***13* — W.A. Mozart/A. Berg (Mitsuko Uchida/Christian Tetzlaff/Pierre Boulez/Ensemble Intercontemporain)**

***Concerti Grossi after Corelli* — G.B. Platti (Akademie für Alte Musik Berlin)**

***Songs* — T. Tulev (Robin Blaze/ Paul Hillier/Estonian Philharmonic Chamber Choir)**

***Furore: Handel Arias* — (Joyce DiDonato/Christophe Rousset/ Les Talens Lyriques)**

***Recital: Lorraine Hunt Lieberson at Ravinia* — (Lorraine Hunt Lieberson/Peter Serkin)**

EXPERIMENTAL

***THE RECOMMENDED SAMPLER* (2-CD) – Various Artists** (R_R MEGACORP)

Fennesz – *Black Sea* (TOUCH)

Alva Noto – *Xerrox, Vol. 2* (RASTER-NORTON)

AMM – *Trinity* (MATCHLESS)

Curlew – *Curlew 1st Album + Live at CBGB 1980* (DMG/ARC)

Loren Connors/Jim O'Rourke – *Two Nice Catholic Boys* (FAMILY VINEYARD)

Tim Hecker – *An Imaginary Country* (KRANKY)

Johann Johannsson – *Fordlandia* (4AD)

John Zorn – *Crucible* (TZADIK)

Religious Knives – *The Door* (ECSTATIC PEACE)

METAL / BLACK METAL

Deathspell Omega — *Veritas Diaboli Manet in Aeternum : Chaining The Katechon*
(NORMA EVANGELIUM DIABOLI)

Horna — *Sanojesi Äärelle*
(DEBEMUR MORTI)

Old Wainds — *Death Nord Kult*
(DEBEMUR MORTI)

Darkthrone — *Dark Thrones & Black Flags* (PEACEVILLE)

Ofermod — *Tiamtü*
(NORMA EVANGELIUM DIABOLI)

Bahimiron — *Southern Nihilizm*
(MORIBUND RECORDS)

Satyricon — *Age Of Nero*
(KOCH RECORDS)

Taake — *Taake* (CENTURY MEDIA)

Cattle Decapitation — *The Harvest Floor* (METAL BLADE)

Khold — *Hundre ar gammal*
(CANDLELIGHT RECORDS)

Capricorns — *River, Bear Your Bones* (RISE ABOVE RECORDS)

Enslaved — *Vertebrae* (NUCLEAR BLAST)

Cannibal Corpse — *Evisceration Plague* (METAL BLADE)

Cynic — *Traced in Air* (SEASON OF MIST)

PUNK

Total Abuse – *Total Abuse*
(DERANGED)

Zero Boys – *Vicious Circle*
(reissue) (SECRETLY CANADIAN)

Masshysteri – *Var Del Av Stan*
(FERAL WARD RECORDS)

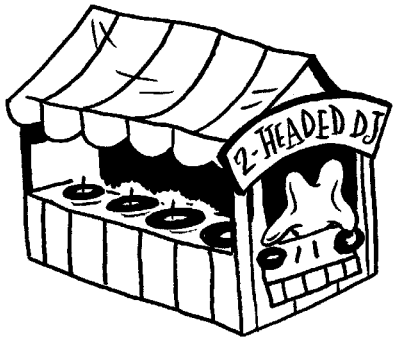
Blatz/Filth – *The Shit Split*
(reissue) (ALTERNATIVE TENTACLES)

Fucked Up – *Chemistry Of Common Life* (MATADOR RECORDS)

Police & Thieves – *Amor y Guerra*
(YOUNGBLOOD RECORDS)

Rubella Ballet – *Anarchy in the U.V.* (UVP PRODCUTIONS)

Subhumans – *Death Was Too Kind*
(ALTERNATIVE TENTACLES)



GOTH

Ohgr – *Devils In My Details* (SPV)

Combichrist – *Today We Are All Demons* (METROPOLIS)

Coil – *New Backwards* (SOLEILMOON)

Current 93 – *Birth Canal Blues*
(COPTIC CAT)

Legendary Pink Dots – *Plutonium Blonde* (ROIR)

Babyland – *Cavecraft* (METROPOLIS)

KMFDM – *Blitz* (METROPOLIS)

Wumpscut – *Fuckit* (METROPOLIS)

OLDIES

Little Willie John – *Nineteen Sixty-Six* (KENT SOUL)

Buddy Holly – *Down The Line: Rarities* (GEFFEN RECORDS)

The Shacklefords – *The Shacklefords Sing*
(CAPITOL / REV-OLA [UK])

The Lemon Pipers – *Love Beads & Meditation* (REV-OLA [CHERRY RED])

***Sing Me A Rainbow: A Trident Anthology 1965-1967* – Various Artists** (BIG BEAT UK)

Wendy & Bonnie – *Genesis*
(SUNDAZED MUSIC INC.)

The Jesters – *Cadillac Men - Legendary Sun Masters* (BIG BEAT UK)

Darlene Love – *So Much Love / Darlene Love Anthology 1958-1998:* (PHANTOM SOUND & VISION)

***Mad Mike Monsters Vol. 1-3* – Various Artists**
(NORTON OLDIES)

Tommy Roe – *Paisley Dreams*
(REV-OLA [CHERRY RED])

COMEDY

Doug Benson – *Professional Humoredian* (ASPECIAL THING RECORDS)

Katt Williams – *It's Pimpin' Pimpin'* (WARNER BROS.)

The Lonely Island – *Incredibad*
(REPUBLIC)

Mitch Hedberg – *Do You Believe in Gosh* (COMEDY CENTRAL)

Lewis Black – *Anticipation*
(COMEDY CENTRAL)

Jim Gaffigan – *King Baby*
(COMEDY CENTRAL)

Lisa Lampanelli – *Long Live the Queen* (WARNER)

KIDS

Dan Zanes – *Welcome Table*
(FESTIVAL FIVE REC.)

Putumayo Kids Presents – *Sesame Street Playground*
(PUTUMAYO WORLD MUSIC)

Burl Ives – *Favorites For Children*
(SHOUT FACTORY)

Carly & Lucy Simon – *Sing Songs For Children* (SHOUT FACTORY)

Alvin And The Chipmunks – *Undeniable* (RAZOR & TIE)

Rockabye Baby – *More Lullaby Renditions of the Beatles*
(BABY ROCK RECORDS)

SOUNDTRACKS

***Slumdog Millionaire* – A.R. Rahman (Composer)**
(INTERSCOPE RECORDS)

***Notorious* – The Notorious B.I.G.**
(ATLANTIC)

***Milk* – Danny Elfman (Composer)** (DECCA)

***Yes Man* – Eels** (LAKESHORE RECORDS)

***Afro Samurai Resurrection* – Various Artists** (WU MUSIC GROUP)

***Coraline* – Bruno Coulais**
(KOCH RECORDS)

***Gonzo* – Various Artists**
(SONY LEGACY)

Wrestler (KOCH)

Watchmen (WARNER)

***Curious Case of Benjamin Button* - Alexandre Desplat (Composer)**
(CONCORD)

***Waltz With Bashir* – Max Richter**
(IMPORT)

DVDs

CLASSICS/SILENT

***Magnificent Obsession* – Douglas Sirk**

Forbidden Hollywood Collection Vol. 3

***Quo Vadis* – Mervyn Leroy**

***Age of Consent* – Michael Powell**

***Rebecca* – Alfred Hitchcock**

***Vertigo* – Alfred Hitchcock**

Little Rascals: Complete Collection

***Sunset Boulevard: Centennial Collection* – Billy Wilder**

***Faust: Restored Deluxe Edition* – F.W. Murnau**

CULT / CULT DIRECTORS

***David Lynch The Lime Green Set* – David Lynch**

***Burn After Reading* – Ethan and Joel Coen**

***Hell Ride* – Larry Bishop**

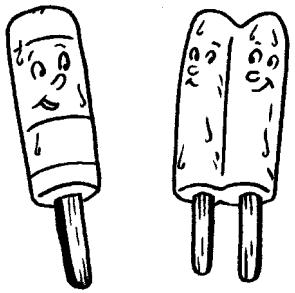
***Stone* – Sandy Harbutt**

***Ken Russell at the BBC* – Ken Russell**

***Howard the Duck* – Willard Huyck**

***White Dog* – Samuel Fuller**

42nd Street Forever Vol. 4



HORROR / SCIENCE FICTION / FANTASY

Hellboy II: The Golden Army – **Guillermo del Toro**

Trailer Park of Terror – **Steven Goldmann**

The Fall – **John Krueger**

Friday The 13th Part 1-3 reissues – **Sean S. Cunningham, and Steve Miner**

Let The Right One In – **Tomas Alfredson**

Four Flies on Grey Velvet – **Dario Argento**

Pieces – **Juan Piquer Simón**

My Bloody Valentine – **George Mihalka**

The Day the Earth Stood Still – **Robert Wise**

Punisher: War Zone – **Ray Stevenson**

Cat In The Brain – **Lucio Fulci**

TV

It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia: Season 3

Battlestar Galactica - Season 4.0

Tim and Eric Awesome Show, Great Job!: Season 2

The Venture Bros.: Season 3

Lost: Season 4

Riches: Season 2

30 Rock: Season 2

Skins Vol. 1

Breaking Bad: Season 1

Black Books: Complete Series

Big Bang Theory: Season 1

How I Met Your Mother: Season 3

Summer Heights High: Season 1

FOREIGN

Far from the Madding Crowd – **John Schlesinger**

4 luni, 3 saptamâni si 2 zile / 4 Months, 3 Weeks and 2 Days – **Cristian Mungiu**

La Question Humaine / Heartbeat Detector – **Nicolas Klotz**

Le Doulos - **Criterion Collection – Jean-Pierre Melville**

The Exterminating Angel – **Luis Buñuel**

Elite Squad – **Jose Padilha**

Europa/Zentropa – **Lars Van Trier**

I've Loved You So Long – **Philippe Claudel**

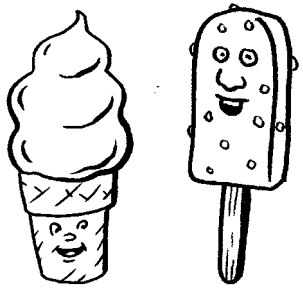
Tell No One – **Guillaume Canet**

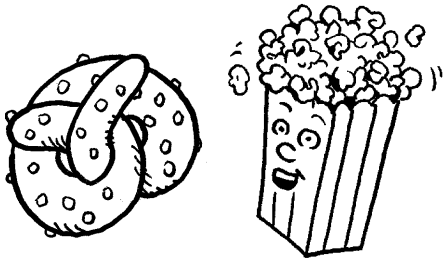
ANIMATION / ART

Star Wars: The Clone Wars – **Dave Filoni**

Metalocalypse - Season 2 – **Tommy Blacha, Brendon Small**

Afro Samurai-Resurrection – **Takashi Okazaki**





Family Guy Vol. 6 – **Seth MacFarlane**

South Park Season 12 – **Trey Parker/Matt Stone**

Futurama: Into the Wild Green Yonder – **Peter Avanzino**

Peter & The Wolf – **Suzie Templeton**

DOCUMENTARY

Religulous – **Larry Charles / Bill Maher**

Gonzo: The Life and Work of Dr. Hunter S. Thompson – **Alex Gibney**

Roman Polanski: Wanted and Desired – **Marina Zenovich**

Cat Dancers – **Harris Fishman**

Man on Wire – **James Marsh**

Baraka: 2-Disc Special Edition – **Ron Fricke**

Billy the Kid – **Jennifer Venditti**

Encounters at the End of the World – **Werner Herzog**

MUSIC DVDS

Patti Smith – Dream Of Life

Calexico – Live In Austin TX

From The Basement – **Various Artists**

The Flaming Lips – Christmas On Mars

The Four Tops – Definitive Performances 1965-1973

The Black Keys – Live At The Crystal Ballroom

Smashing Pumpkins – If All Goes Wrong

The Who– At Kilburn 1977

Sam & Dave – Original Soul Men 1967-1980

Little Richard-Live at the Toronto Peace Festival

Parliament Funkadelic-Live 1976

Soulwax-Part of the Weekend Never Dies

Jedi Mind Tricks-Divine Fire

COMEDY

Vicky Cristina Barcelona – **Woody Allen**

Happy-Go-Lucky – **Mike Leigh**

Tropic Thunder – **Ben Stiller**

Pineapple Express – **David Gordon Green**

Bottle Rocket – **Wes Anderson**

Wackness – **Jonathan Levine**

Zack & Miri Make a Porno – **Kevin Smith**

Hamlet 2 – **Andrew Fleming**

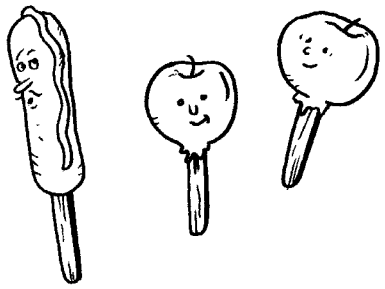
DRAMA

W. – **Oliver Stone**

Frozen River – **Courtney Hunt**

Miracle at St. Anna – **Spike Lee**

Twilight – **Catherine Hardwicke**



***Synecdoche New York* – Charlie Kaufman**

***Milk* – Gus Van Sant**

***Rachel Getting Married* – Jonathan Demme**

***Mister Lonely* – Harmony Korine**

***Elegy* – Isabel Coixet**

***Slumdog Millionaire* – Danny Boyle**

ACTION / ADVENTURE

***Death Race 2008* – Paul W.S. Anderson**

***The Dark Knight* - Christopher Nolan**

***Wanted* – Timur Bekmambetov**

***Quantum of Solace* – Marc Forster**

***Bourne Trilogy* – Paul Greengrass**

***RocknRolla* – Guy Ritchie**

***In Bruges* – Martin McDonagh**

***Eagle Eye* – D.J. Caruso**

MYSTERY / THRILLER

The Agatha Christie Mystery Collection: 50 Volumes Plus Autobiography

Alfred Hitchcock: 8 Master Works From The Master Of Suspense

***Changeling* – Clint Eastwood**

Colombo-Mystery Movie Collection

***Paranoid Park* – Gus Van Sant**

KIDS / FAMILY

***Mary Poppins (45th Anniversary Special Edition)* – Robert Stevenson**

***Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa* – Eric Darnell / Tom McGrath**

***Space Chimps* – Kirk De Micco**

***High School Musical 3: Senior Year* – Kenny Ortega**

***Beverly Hills Chihuahua* – Raja Gosnell**

***Bolt* – Byron Howard**

***Pinocchio-70th Anniversary* – Hamilon Luske**

***Wall•E* – Andrew Stanton**

***Sesame Street: Follow that Bird* – Ken Kwapis**

***Yo Gabba Gabba* – Lance Rock**

IMPORTS

***Taken: Extended Harder Cut* – Pierre Morel**

***Gomorrah* – Matteo Garrone**

BERKELEY

BERKELEY BRADLEY

What color you paint it, pimp? Apricot.

Lindsey Buckingham – *Gift of Screws* (REPRISE)
The creative resurgence that began with his contributions to the 2003 Fleetwood Mac release, *Say You Will,* reaches fruition on this excellent record. Buckingham's knack for combining eccentric studio experiments with soaring tunefulness is intact, and a couple of songs featuring John McVie and Mick Fleetwood suggest that a power trio version of Fleetwood Mac would be an exciting new direction.

Andrew Bird – *Noble Beast*
(FAT POSSUM)
Always an excellent musician and singer, *Noble Beast* finds those skills married to Bird's most consistent set of songs. The result is an album that is distinctly modern but wouldn't sound out of place alongside progressive '70s folkies like John Martyn, Kevin Ayers, or singer-songwriters Paul Simon and Nick Drake.

Lissom – *Nest of Iterations*
(DRAGON'S EYE)
Fennesz's *Black Sea* is an excellent return to form, and Lissom is the perfect companion. Sheets of hazy electronics form beautiful, mysterious soundscapes whose shifting textures and layers reveal bell-like melodies and grainy, crackling space.

The Moore Brothers – *Aptos*
(AMERICAN DUST)
The continuing maturation of the The Moore Brothers as singers and songwriters is a treat to experience. The glorious harmonies and winding, impressionistic songwriting are intact, framed with excellent help from Kelley Stoltz and others. The comparisons to Robyn Hitchcock, Martin Carthy, Felt, and Simon & Garfunkel remain, but The Moore Brothers are truly themselves now.

***Fight On, Your Time Ain't Long; I Don't Feel at Home in This World Anymore; I Woke Up One Morning in May; Life is a Problem; Oh Graveyard, You Can't Hold Me Always; Last Kind Words* – Various Artists** (MISSISSIPPI)
Something about the stark graphic design, lack of liner notes, and vinyl-only status helps make these collections of old time blues, folk, country and more a real music-centric experience. Instead of a history lesson, collector fetishist box-checking, or Luddite grumpiness we can drop the needle and have the magical, mysterious sounds of the past revealed to us as living expression.

CALEB

Starfucker – *Starfucker* (BADMAN)
The best thing out of Portland since lumberjacks . . . Does that make sense?

The Pains of Being Pure at Heart – *The Pains of Being Pure at Heart*
(SLUMBERLAND)
Delicious tween pop from Brooklyn.

Land of Talk – *Some Are Lakes*
(ONE LITTLE INDIAN)
Super catchy indie-pop goodness from our neighbors to the North!

Sigur Rós – *með suð í eyrum við spilum endalaust* (XL)
My personal favorite of 2008. Own it again, on vinyl!

The Bad Plus – *For All I Care*
(DO THE MATH RECORDS)
You may remember The Bad Plus for their amazing version of Aphex Twin's "Flim." You will remember them in the future for their breathtaking versions of Nirvana's "Lithium," Pink Floyd's "Comfortably Numb," and The Flaming Lips' "Feeling Yourself Disintegrate" among nine other show-stopping tracks.

Tip:
Here's the part where I direct you to my band's website: www.grand-lake.blogspot.com
Check out: Man/Miracle, No'S, Sister Grizzly, and The Dashing Suns. Best bands in the Bay.

E. LIT

Doomtree – *Doomtree* (DOOMTREE)
Self-Righteous

Hand Over Fist – *Hand Over Fist*
(DOOMTREE)
Self-Destruction

Heiruspecs – *Heiruspecs*
(HEIRUSPECS)
Self-Improvement

Johnson & Jonson – *Johnson & Jonson* (TRES)
Self-Respect

***Obsession* – Various Artists** (BULLY)
Self-Induced

BEAN

Berkeley buyer/pricer/apprentice motorcycle mechanic/black thumb gardener. Grammar and the alphabet are your friends.

Punk Rock Reissues – Flipper / Zero Boys / Blatz & Filth
(WATER/SECRETLY CANADIAN/LIFE IS ABUSE)
Water Records finally reissues all the old Flipper albums at once. One of the most creative bands of the original San Francisco punk explosion, Flipper's brutally redundant "sound" is both oppressive in its heaviness and liberating in its originality. Start with *Generic*, a classic in the art-punk canon, then experience *Public Flipper Limited* for a pulverizing dose of Flipper live.

In a fit of Midwestern pride, Secretly Canadian reissues the Zero Boys' *Vicious Circle*. When you talk about Reagan-era hardcore, this band is at the top of the list. While most of their peers slavishly perfected the loud fast rules that turned hardcore into one of the most boring and clichéd musical genres ever, Indiana's Zero Boys upped the ante by adding incisive lyrics and hooks that stick in your head for days.

What? T*he Shit Split* is back in print? It's about time. Pick a side to root for (since no one seems to like both sides). Either way, this is the kind of sloppy dirty punk rock that put the East Bay on the map.

Dutchess & the Duke – *She's the Dutchess, He's the Duke* (HARDLY ART)
"I thought that if you had an acoustic guitar, then it meant that you were a protest singer." Usually indie kids playing at folk makes me want to stick icepicks in my ears. But these two ex-garage rockers (their pedigree includes The Flying Dutchmen and The Intelligence among others) are still flying the flannel despite going (mostly) acoustic. Melancholic songs about ugly situations, desperate times, and occasional redemption are arranged around uncomplicated but interesting melodies, which, despite the acoustic guitars, maintain a sharp rock'n'roll edginess.

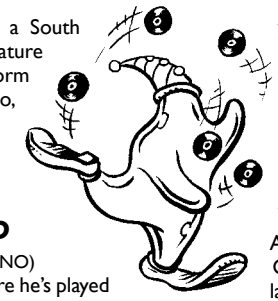
Thee Oh Sees – *The Master's Bedroom is Worth Spending a Night In* (TOMLAB)
Even John Dwyer's most puerile projects (anyone remember Ziegenbock Kopf?) have not been without a certain element of mad genius. But the latest direction for his deconstructed folk-cum-neo-garage project, Thee Oh Sees, is perhaps Dwyer's most fully realized. The production is drenched in *de rigueur* reverb and the tell tale sound of his tinny telephone receiver mic is still there, but everything really falls into place on this one. Perhaps it's the mellowing of age, or maybe it's just the development of real craft. Whatever, just do like Thee Oh Sees say and spend some time in their bedroom.

JIM V

***Encounters At the End of the World* – Directed by Werner Herzog**
After a chance viewing of some underwater footage shot in Antarctica by musician and scuba diver Henry Kaiser, filmmaker Werner Herzog decided to make the ultimate trip down under and ended up producing this doc that explores life on, over, and under the polar ice cap via a number of the residents who populate some of the most extreme terrain on earth. This is no standard "nature" documentary, as Herzog seems as fascinated by the researchers and their stories as the actual wildlife and landscape. As Herzog dryly states early on in his narration, "this film will have no fluffy penguins."

It does, however, have an eclectic collection of people, otherworldly locales, and wildlife that goes from mammoth to microscopic. Amongst the researchers and staff that Herzog encounters during his visit are seal scientists, undersea biologists, vulcanologists, and neutrino hunters, as well as the guy who runs the Frosty-Boy soft-serve ice cream machine at the main Antarctica settlement. Herzog also captures the extremes of the polar environments, from sub-polar ice tunnels where the temperature drops to 70 below to an active volcano that still has a pool of molten magma churning in it. Some of the most amazing footage here was shot under the polar ice by Kaiser and more often than not captures images that would not be out of place in a sci-fi movie. Likewise, a segment on a group of seals includes some of their underwater calls, which sound like a fat-sounding analog synthesizer being randomly triggered-off.

Extra features on the two-disc set include an interview of Herzog by fellow director Jonathan Demme; a commentary track by Herzog, Kaiser, and cinematographer Peter Zeitlinger; extra footage shot both above and below the ice; and a South Pole "exorcism." The latter feature also includes some of the free-form psychedelic guitar, of Kaiser who, along with multi-instrumentalist David Lindley, scored the original music for the film.



Ry Cooder – *The UFO Has Landed* (WARNER/RHINO)
Over 40 years into a career where he's played everything from quirky Asian pop to foot-stomping zydeco, *The UFO Has Landed* collects some of the best of Ry Cooder's solo efforts and film soundtrack work onto a two-disc, 34-track collection. Selected and sequenced by Cooder's son Joachim, the set leans a little heavier on Cooder's first five albums, where his basic M.O. was to re-imagine forgotten or overlooked songs past and present and put them in new musical settings, drawing on a variety of roots music traditions for jumping off points. Often pigeonholed as a blues player for his deft and nuanced slide playing, Cooder effortlessly weaves influences as diverse as Tex-Mex, Gospel, Hawaiian, and R&B into his music, making it into a seamless whole. Also getting a fair amount of disc space here are selections from Cooder's numerous albums of soundtrack work, including the somber title piece from *Paris, Texas*. A previously unreleased workout on Wilbert Harrison's *Let's Work Together* as well as comments on each song from Cooder, make this a must have for fans and not a bad place to start for the uninitiated. Now if they'd only follow this up with a collection of some of his more notable session work, i.e. the Stones, Captain Beefheart, Van Morrison, Shoukichi Kina, etc., etc., etc.

***Juke Joint Boogie: Country and Rockabilly Classics, Snatch & Grab It: 33 2/3 Edition Rhythm & Blues Classics, Country Boy's Dream : Country, Western, Bluegrass & Instrumental Classics* – Various Artists** (BEAR FAMILY)
To celebrate their 33rd anniversary reissue specialists Bear Family have released these three ultra-cheap ($6.98 + tax), ultra-tasty (vintage country, bluegrass, rockabilly and rhythm & blues,) and ultra filling (33 tracks on each album) collections culled from their extensive catalog. The only downside is that you'll probably want to get full-length albums by many of these artists once you get a listen to these sets.

***DR. Boogie Presents Ethnic Authentic Electric: SHIM SHAM SHIMMY* – Various Artists**
(SUB ROSA)
Fantastic 30-track compilation of some of the best post-WWII blues, boogie and jump by a lot of artists you might of heard of and even more of you probably haven't. If you're a fan of early Chess or Sun Records pre-Elvis output this should be in your collection.

***20 Years History - The Very Best of Syllart Productions* – Various Artists** (SYLLART)
Another amazing deal! This time a five CD set of African music from the Syllart record label for less than five bucks a disc. There's one CD each for Senegal, Congo, Mali, West African Dance, and a disc simply titled Roots. There's a wide range of artist and styles here, so while you might not like everything, it's hard to imagine a better collection of African music for the money.

JIM NASTIQUE

MAIN FLOOR

Love Is All – *A Hundred Things Keep Me Up At Night*
(WHAT'S YOUR RUPTURE?)

The Cramps – *Live at Napa State Mental Hospital* (TARGET VIDEO)
R.I.P. Lux Interior.

The Daily Void – Identification Code 5271-4984953784-06564
(DEAD BEAT RECORDS)

The Nixe – *The Nixe: 1980-81*
(POLLY MAGGOO RECORDS)

Frustration – *Relax*
(BORN BAD RECORDS)

Masshysteri – *Var Del Av Stan*
(NY VAG)

Animals & Men – *Never Bought, Never Sold* (MISSISSIPPI RECORDS)

Mo-Dettes – *...The Story So Far...*
(DREAM)

Einstürzende Neubauten – *The Jewels* (POTOMAK)

Miss Ludella Black feat. The Masonics – *From This Witness Stand* (DAMAGED GOODS)

The Fall – *Imperial Wax Solvent* (CASTLE)
I'm a "50 Year Old Man," AH!

Wild Billy Childish & The Musicians of the British Empire – *Thatcher's Children* (DAMAGED GOODS)

Swann Danger – *Swann Danger II 12" EP* (CUSTODY NIGHT SCHOOL)

Needles – *Twisted Vision* (LENGUA ARMADA)

***Låt den rätte komma in / Let The Right One In* – Directed by Tomas Alfredson**

Tip: *SEND DONATIONS TO JIM :: PO BOX 11273 OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA 94611.*

JONASTY

To achieve one's dreams, one must avert ones gaze from the egregious and move towards a glance that longingly... er, never mind...

Flying Lotus – *Los Angeles* (WARP RECORDS)
Feels like you are floating in a vat of futuristic life-giving goo — very dreamy and full of wonderment. You should really give it a listen.

Cool Kids – *Bake Sale* (CHOCOLATE INDUSTRIES)
Good old-school sounding Hip-Hop with 808-type beats, but for the millennium generation, really. I swear to gosh, you should really try checking it out for at least a second.

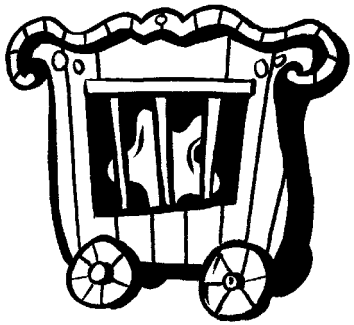
Kassin + 2 – *Futurismo* (LUAKA BOP)
The final in a trilogy of albums from the Brazilian trio, where each artist takes a turn at leading the group — including Caetano Veloso's kid Moreno. It has a bit of everything from the vast array of styles Brazil has to offer — that is — from samba to bossa nova, to a bit of psychedelica. Tudo Bem, I really recommend just giving this one a little try.

Tom Zé – *Estudando O Pagode - Na Opereta Segregamulher E Amor* (TRAMA)
This is one of the latest from Tom Zé, a champion of the Tropicalia movement in Brazil. Though it came out around 2005, I only recently checked it out and felt it was worth mentioning, considering it had been registering below my radar and was of the highest quality. It is an operetta filled with varying political interests – check online for synopsis – and contains all kinds of whistles, brays, and electronic glitches for your ear enjoyment. It is a nice piece and you should really try hearing it at some point, if not purchasing it from our store.

MGMT – *Oracular Spectacular* (SONY)
This a fairly popular rock album, and if you haven't heard it already, go and give it a listen — you will be pleasantly surprised by the eclectic sound these two young men manage to create. Please try it, you'll like it.

***Moral Orel, Vol. 1: The Unholy Edition* – Directed by Dino Stamatopoulos**
This is from 2005, but I just recently began watching it. Very funny. At first viewing (within a few minutes of the first episode) it seemed to be another agnostic/atheist attempt at bucking a conservative religious upbringing by putting down Christianity. But one must watch further as it is much funnier and more interesting than this initial simple knee-jerk reaction. Great stop-motion animation too. Have fun!

Tip: *Be at least cordial with one another, it helps the process along.*



KEN

I'm a used product buyer at SF and Berkeley, as well as an oldies section and rock sections maintainer in Berkeley. I price lotsa boxed sets too.

***Mad Mike Monsters Vol. 1-3* – Various Artists** (NORTON)
"Mad Mike" Metrovich was a Pittsburgh, PA disc jockey who blew mid-'60s Steeltown teens' minds with his wild selections. The "Mad Mike" aesthetic encompassed greasy instrumentals, not-quite-novelty exotica, pounding rock'n'roll, R&B, and obscuro ballads. No wonder 1400 kids showed up at Mike's dances!! The fine Norton folks have unearthed a potpourri of some of the wildest examples and are sharing them with us now in three equally great volumes available on LP or CD. I swear, "Gismo" is the greatest song of all time (with tongue planted firmly in cheek)!! This is the stuff the Cramps listen to. Weird, wild stuff.

Jimmy Hughes – *Best of Jimmy Hughes* (FAME)
The inaugural release from the reactivated FAME label in Muscle Shoals, AL is this 18-track overview of Jimmy Hughes's '60s output that originally saw the light of day on the Guyden, Vee Jay, Atco, and Atlantic labels. FAME is legendary in the deep Southern soul circles, and this comp will demonstrate why. Emotion runs high throughout Jimmy's music, with "Steal Away," "I Worship the Ground You Walk On," and "Why Not Tonight" stealing the show for me. I've cherished his Vee Jay and Atco LPs for years and always wondered why there's never been a CD reissue of this material. Well, lucky for us, Rick Hall has opened the vaults and made this music available again. Thank you!! Also, make sure to check out Kent's wonderful 3-CD box set *Take Me to the River: A Southern Soul Story 1961-1977*, which contains 75 tracks of the finest Southern soul you'll ever hear, from the obvious to the obscure.

The Ettes – *Look At Life Again Soon* (TAKE ROOT)
I've been listening to this fine NYC garage trio quite a bit lately. This album, their second, was, like their first, recorded in London at Toe Rag Studios. I don't think I've yet heard anything recorded there that I don't like. Their music is super-catchy, tough-girl garage pop with tons'a fuzz. "Crown of Age" is a most memorable song. I think it plays in my head even while I'm asleep. Is that even possible? Think Runaways/Muffs/Headcoatees with maybe a touch of Elastica(?) thrown in. Also available on CD.

***Funky L.A.* – Various Artists**
This album appeared at the Bay Area Amoeba stores on consignment recently, and I was curious enough to take a chance on it. I'm glad I did. There's some heavy-duty funk within these grooves. Is there a bottomless pit of great, obscure, local funk and soul? I believe there is.

Honorable mentions:
And, as always, I have to sneak in the "honorable mentions" as my fifth choice:

Jimmy Radway & The Fe Me Time All-Stars *Dub I* (Pressure Sounds LP/CD), *Paul Weller At the BBC* (Universal UK 3 LP/4 CD box set), The Kinks *Picture Book* (Sanctuary 6 CD box set), Bee Gees *Odessa* (Rhino 3 CD deluxe edition), Rodriguez *Cold Fact* (Light In the Attic LP/CD), Orchestre Poly-Rythmo de Cotonou *The Vodoun Effect 1972-1975* (Analog Africa CD), The Vibrations *Vibrating Vibrations: The Okeh & Epic Singles 1963-1968* (Kent CD), Vince Taylor *Jet Black Leather Machine* (Big Beat CD).

Tip:
Looking for a great music-oriented vacation this spring? Check out the Ponderosa Stomp in New Orleans April 28-29. It's a great 2-day fest of unsung musical heroes and legends. The price is right, the accommodations are cheap and convenient, and you'll remember it forever!! Nuff said. See you there?

KENT

Call Me Fluffy.

Cornelius Cardew – *Treatise* (MODE)
Performed by The QUaX Ensemble, directed by Peter Kotik. This is a live recording from 1967 in Prague. A double live CD of English music that I consider better than the other double live album *Frampton Comes Alive,* by another Englishman.

Orphx – *Rarities And Remixes* (HANDS)
Double CD of tracks recorded between 1996 and 2005. A duo of Richard Oddie and Christina Sealey, they create both old school industrial and the more current beat oriented hypnotic dance music. This set is a nice introduction to the band, and, oh yeah, they're from Canada, so you know they're nice people, eh.

Toshi Ichiyanagi – *Obscure Tape Music Of Japan Vol. 5* (OMEGA POINT)
Number 5 in an ongoing series of Japanese tape music. This CD has three pieces: 1) "Music For Tinguely 1963," 2) "Appearance 1967," and 3) "Music For Living Space 1969." This whole series is a must for all fans of academic electronic music, but this one stands out because of the compositional skill of Ichiyanagi.

Acid Birds – *Acid Birds* (QBICO)
Part of the new batch of Qbico LPs focusing on American performers. A trio of Andrew Barker (drums, percussion, jaw harp), Jaime Fennelly (electronics, harmonium) and Charles Waters (alto sax, clarinet, bass clarinet). Like most of the Qbico improv records I like the most, electronics take the music to new realms of enjoyment. The drone of the harmonium also adds new dimensions to an already solid improv session. The vinyl is a black and yellow splash design for optimum tripping.

Svarte Greiner - *Man Bird Dress*
(SMTG LIMITED)
Svarte Greiner is the group name used by Norwegian Erik K. Skodvin. He produces beautiful and haunting atmospheric landscapes. Also check out his previous album *Knive* on Type Records.

Tip:
Rodger Collins released Through My Eyes *in September. A local and legendary performer famous for "She's Looking Good" and "Foxy Girls In Oakland." This album is good and worth checking out.*

LARRY KELP

Director of Berkeley's WMD (world music department).

Fred Hersch Pocket Orchestra – *Live at the Jazz Standard*
(SUNNYSIDE)
New York jazz pianist-composer Fred Hersch's Pocket Orchestra recorded live last year at the NYC jazz club as just a quartet (trumpeter Ralph Alessi, percussionist Richie Barshay, and the amazing young vocal improviser Jo Lawry) playing Hersch originals, all of them full of melodic brilliance and joy. One hopes that we were put on Earth to feel as happy as this music sounds.

Pete Seeger – *At 89* (APPLESEED)
Even the folk legend's oldest fans were probably surprised to find Seeger on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial at Barack Obama's Jan. 18 "We Are One" celebration, encouraging a "choir" of 400,000 to sing along to all the verses of "This Land Is Your Land," accompanied by Bruce Springsteen and grandson, Tao Rodriguez. On his new CD, Seeger is sometimes solo, and other times accompanied by a changing cast of musicians, with a few spoken intros on mostly new songs, including one inspired by Berkeley's Zero Waste Commission.

Los Cenzontles with David Hidalgo – *Songs of Wood & Steel*
(LOS CENZONTLES)
San Pablo's young band Los Cenzontles has issued a series of regional folkloric albums over the past decade, but this one is something new as the group teams with Los Lobos guitarist David Hidalgo to create modern Latin folk and rock drenched in West Coast culture and tradition. They combine old elements and songs in new ways, including several extended rock guitar jams (accompanied by banda horns). Linda Ronstadt adds some vocal harmonies, but it is Los Cenzontles and Hidalgo that are blazing territory Los Lobos never got to.

Franco & Le T.P.O.K. Jazz – *Francophonic* (STERNS)
Amidst a cornucopia of recent new CDs and reissues of great African music, none is more significant than this 2-CD set. The first "Best of" Congo's great Franco to cover his entire recording career (1953-1989), beginning with his first recording when he was 15, with just acoustic guitar and a bit of percussion. As his T.P. O.K. Jazz band grew, he added horns, and his rumba-based rhythms and hypnotic electric guitar playing developed. He became one of the biggest influences on African music. This one's essential!

Will Bernard – *Blue Plate Special*
(PALMETTO)
The Berkeley-reared electric guitarist has issued a number of East Bay jazz-funk albums, some heavily groove-oriented. This one emphasizes tunes and his inventive electric guitar playing. It doesn't hurt that he's playing in a dream band with John Medeski on keyboards, Andy Hess on bass, and Stanton Moore on drums. Today's jazz doesn't get much tighter.

MATT BOB

Q-Tip – *The Renaissance*
(UNIVERSAL MOTOWN)
It's Tip...

DJ Revolution – *King Of The Decks* (DUCK DOWN)
One of the best scratch DJs ever. A song with Tash and Sean Price is almost worth the whole album.

***Sukiyaki Western Django* – Directed by Takashi Miike**
OK I'm breaking the rules a bit for this one, as it came out last year, but it was new to me and I thought it was great. It's like a Samurai western thing. Goes good with the volume way up.

***Burn After Reading* – Directed by the Coen brothers**
I feel like this is a given, so...words words words.

Ludacris – *Theater Of The Mind*
(DEF JAM)
Ludacris has always been an exception in my otherwise harsh opinion of mainstream rap music. *Theater Of The Mind* keeps that same pace. And, although a typical statement in my case, the 9th Wonder and Premier tracks are worth the price on their own.

Eagle Nebula – *Cosmic Headphones*
(EPISTROPHIK PEACH SOUND)
Super good production, crazy rhymes. I likeded it.

MICHAEL

Jazz guy and CD pricer, inheritor of the pop vocal section... I also love world music, psychedelia, experimental soundscapes, and lots of other stuff. Lately I've been listening to a ton of experimental/electronic/ambient/drone type of stuff, so this list is kinda heavy on that sort of thing...

Fennesz – *Black Sea* (TOUCH)
A richly textured ambient haze of deep and incandescent beauty . . . subtle yet powerful stuff from this laptop maestro. Feels a bit like the winter companion piece to the equally excellent *Endless Summer* and every bit as good if not even better!

Aidan Baker & Tim Hecker – *Fantasma Parastasie* (ALIEN8)
Speaking of "kind of heavy" . . . this head-to-head collaboration between these two distinctly accomplished musicians yields some excellent heavy ambient dronescapes.

Mountains – *Mountains Mountains Mountains* (CATSUP PLATE)
More lovely ambience from this NYC duo who sculpt fine art out of using only guitar, keyboards, and some electronics. This one is a little more edgy than their previous work, but still wonderfully warm and shimmery. Limited to 500 copies on LP only and now out of print, but look for their new full-length to drop on Thrill Jockey sometime in February. It's definitely going to be solid... can't wait to hear it!

Philip Jeck – *Suite : Live in Liverpool* (TOUCH)
This UK-based manipulator of turntables has made another fine record of dreamy soundscapes using old records and some electronics. Recorded live, this one shows how adept he is at doing this stuff without the aid of studio trickery. Masterful technique and otherwordly results. Sounds a bit like a haunted wooden ship traveling across an ocean of steam and smoke.

Emeralds – *What Happened*
(NO FUN PRODUCTIONS)
This Ohio trio has been making some of the nicest ambient/electronic/drone music around for the last couple of years. They've mostly slipped under the radar due to releasing most of their stuff on CD-Rs and cassettes in minute quantities (generally less than 100 copies of each!), but they get a proper CD release here on Carlos Giffoni's No Fun label. Their music is very reminiscent of early Kosmische music á la Tangerine Dream, Cluster/Harmonia, Manuel Gottsching/Ash Ra Tempel, and Popol Vuh. Each of the three members all have various solo and collaborative projects too, which makes it nearly impossible to track down everything they've done. Start with this one (perhaps their best based on what I've heard of their immense catalog) and let the magical power in these glittering green stones show you the way from there.

Yui Onodera – *Suisei* (AND/OAR)
Blissful washes of minimalist drone from this skilled Japanese soundcrafter. Simple, lovely, and limited to 300 copies... get it while it lasts!

Tricorn & Queue – *Hidden Entrances* (STUNNED)
The cassette is coming back! Seriously, there are tons of small labels releasing limited runs of amazing music on this supposedly "outdated" format. This gem (on the always excellent Stunned label out of Long Beach, CA) is an incredibly warm blueish green lagoon of mellow, blissed-out tropical vibrations . . .

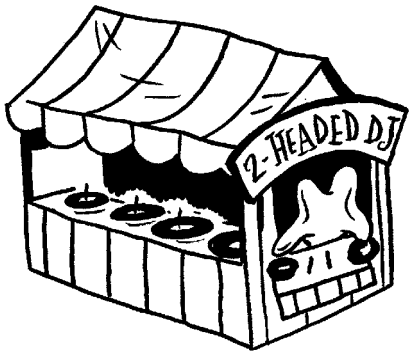
Xiphiidae – *Used Parts Galaxy* (HOUSECRAFT)
Yet another fine label (Housecraft) that has put out a consistently amazing string of releases on cassette and CD-R. This one is indeed a galaxy, an entire interstellar spacescape filled with glistening molecules of delicate wonder. Xiphiidae is the project of Jeff Astin, the head of the Housecraft label, and also one of the two gentlemen responsible for the Tricorn & Queue stuff. I can't get enough of the lovely synthesizer tones he summons and the gentle moods that pervade his material, making each of the several titles in his growing discography something special . . .

Wave and Particle – *Wave and Particle* (SMOKE & MIRRORS)
Two different CD-R releases from this local Oakland duo. Both contain some of the most amazing futuristic electronic music I've heard. Sounds unlike anything else out there, while still remaining somehow accessible. Totally fascinating, and especially nice with headphones.

The Present – *World I See* (LOAF)
NYC trio based around producer Rusty Santos, who has worked with Panda Bear, among others. Nice long jams that blend diverse instrumentation and eclectic stylistic elements together into a cohesive whole. Seriously epic and soulful in a post modern kind of way.

Anything and everything put out by Mississippi Records – *Yeah, all of them!*
Mississippi Records is a small record store from Portland, Oregon which has been releasing a growing catalog of collections featuring early blues and gospel music, classic African pop music, and other random goodies (old soul music, Temple Orchestras from Thailand, etc). These are wonderful gems, lovingly compiled into coherent artifacts which are well worth investigating . . . here's to their continued success and a long-running series of amazing archival material!

Tip:
This is what I do with most of my spare time when I'm not at Amoeba: www.myspace.com/thewhybecause.



REBECCA

Likes a big-ass sandwich.

***Emmet Otter's Jug-Band Christmas* – Directed by Jim Henson**
It's got jug music, rodents, and surrealism. Also, classic Hensonness.

***Gonzo: The Life and Work of Dr. Hunter S. Thompson* – Directed by Alex Gibney**
It has all the same archival footage and '60s rock classics as the other HST docs, and of course it contains its share of Johnny Depp. But this one is comprehensive and wraps everything together nicely, especially with Thompson's egomaniacal fantasy funeral.

***Baby Mama* – Directed by Michael McCullers**
If you're put off by Lorne Michaels productions and/or maternity comedies, or baby momedies as I like to call them, I totally understand. I am too. But do not let your aversion make you miss out on the Steve Martin appearances in this film. They are golden gems of comedy. Gems. Just fast forward to his parts, it is well worth it.

ROBVERTIGO

Main Rock Floor Headspin.
Honey toast & Tang.
Still wearing sweatpants to walk the dog.

Druid Perfume – *Druid Perfume* (RATS)
A good chunk of the (sadly deceased) Piranhas lay down a gonzoid jazz-punk of a platter. Imagine Beefheart and Screamin' Jay collaborating on a swampy acid rock meltdown. Hard to explain in a sentence or two.

Hunches – *Exit Dreams* (IN THE RED)
Face melting fury with added distorto-crush. Heart achingly beautiful and ungodly ugly at the same damn time. A mutt grown of indie rock despair and Electric Eels-style nihilism. Epic production of a mid-period Flaming Lips scale. Great way for these kids to go out. You will be missed. Like to see somebody try to top this'n in 2009. Eat your teeth . . .

***Pieces* – Directed by Juan Piquer Simón** (GRINDHOUSE RELEASING)
The label that gave you *I Drink Your Blood* and *Make Them Die Slowly* pull another bad-ass maneuver with this sick puppy. Christopher George is on the hunt for a madman on campus who's building a life-size rag doll out of lady parts. Actual chainsaw hits to the flesh, again and again. Kung-Fu for no reason. Gratuitous leg warmers and garden tool deaths. The guy who played Bluto in Altman's *Popeye!* It's never looked so good. Or worse. Awesome trash. "You don't have to go to Texas…"

Lee Moses – *Time & Place* (CASTLE)
Holy Grail? Some say...I don't know about that, but it was my fave soul score since the Baby Huey & Betty Davis re-ishes a while back. All the singles & the LP in one place. One of two CDs I paid for this year (vinyl, on the other hand, can cause bankruptcy...) "Bad Girl" is in my top ten songs, so it's nice to have a physical copy in possession. There's an LP version out there? Greasy.

***In The Folds Of The Flesh* – Directed by Sergio Bergonzelli** (SEVERIN DVD)
A garbage can of Euro-sleaze delights. Even for a Giallo, it makes little sense...but who cares with this much incest, decapitations, Nazisploitation, and garish color caked on. A deliriously good time. Nice to finally chuck that "import" copy I've had on VHS for ten odd years.

SEAN "SHOOTER" SOKOL

Security Overlord // Awesomeness

Death Raid – *Death Raid* (UNREST)
14 song gatefold LP. Blistering crust that features ex-members of (and sounds like) Disrupt, State of Fear, Consume, Shitlist, etc. They destroyed at Burnt Ramen and gave me a week long bangover.

Nachtmystium – *Assassins: Black Meddle Part I* (CENTURY MEDIA)
This album makes a departure from their more traditional black metal assault and mixes in some experimental and psychedelic sounds.

Disrupt – *Disrupt* (UNREST)
Seven songs from old recording sessions that never saw the light of day till now. Gatefold cover with color vinyl.

Abrupt – *Abrupt* (INSPIRED BY ANGST)
Ripping Bay Area hardcore with female vocals. Features members of Born/Dead, Desolation, and Scurvy Dogs. "Hey Beltloops, where's the Kool Aid?"

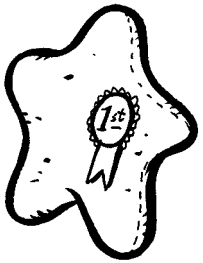
Nux Vomica / Wake Up On Fire *(split)* (ABORTED SOCIETY)
An awesome 12" release by these two metal edged epicrust bands.

Massgrave / Stormcrow *(split)* (MANGLED ANKLE RECORDS)
Vancouver Grindcore vs. Oakland Stenchcore.

Elk / Carrion Demo *(split)* (B2R)
Split Demo of Oakland's black metal party boys Elk and noise aficionados Carrion.

Withered – *Folie Circulaire* (PROSTHETIC RECORDS)
Raging dark black metal from Georgia that fuses elements of black, death, doom, and prog. Features guest vocals by Barney from Napalm Death. Check them out live if you get the chance.

WolfBrigade – *Comalive* (REFLECTIONS)
Hail Sweden!

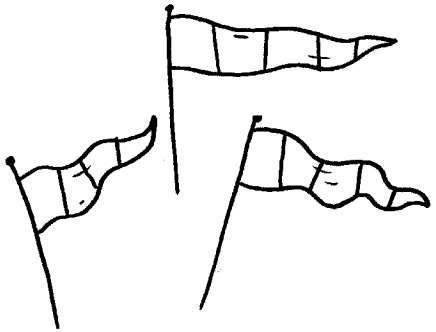


Samothrace – *Life's Trade* (20 BUCK SPIN)
Epic soulful doom from Lawrence, Kansas. Double LP on 45 with a gatefold cover and poster. LP comes with a free download of the album.

Tip: *"Under the spell of spirits, miracles will occur."*

"I can see that we're playing poker now, and let me tell you I'm all jacked up for it."

"I'm not afraid of what I can't do. I'm afraid of what I will do, and you KNOW what I'm talking about."
- McQuown Manifesto



SPENSER COOPER RUSSELL-SNYDER

He wasn't in the last Music We Like, so here's his top list of 2008! Also, check out his monthly podcast at www.noisepop.com/looklisten.

Pinhead Gunpowder – *West Side Highway* (RECESS RECORDS)

Tender Forever – *Wider*
(K RECORDS)

Helms Alee – *Night Terror*
(HYDRA HEAD)

All Girl Summer Fun Band – *Looking Into It* (AGSFB RECORDS)

Crystal Castles – *Crystal Castles*
(LAST GANG RECORDS)

Marnie Stern – *This Is It...*
(KILL ROCK STARS)

Olehole – *Hole Mole*
(UNDER GROUND COMMUNIQUE RECORDS)

sBACH – *sBACH*
(SUICIDE SQUEEZE RECORDS)

Manda Rin – *My DNA*
(RETARD DISCO RECORDS)

Alias – *Resurgam* (ANTICON RECORDS)

These Arms Are Snakes – *Tail Swallower And Dove*
(SUICIDE SQUEEZE RECORDS)

Tim Fite – *Fair Ain't Fair*
(ANTI RECORDS)

Audrye Sessions EP – *Audrye Sessions* (BLACK SEAL RECORDS)

Foals – *Antidotes* (SUB POP)

Love Is All – *A Hundred Things Keep Me Up At Night*
(WHAT'S YOUR RUPTURE)

Tip:
Best Place To Go In Case Of Zombie Attack: The Big Longs at 51st and Broadway.

STACY

East Bay Mistress Of Metal

Khold – *Hundre Ar Gammal*
(TABU RECORDINGS)

Taake – *Taake* (CENTURY MEDIA)

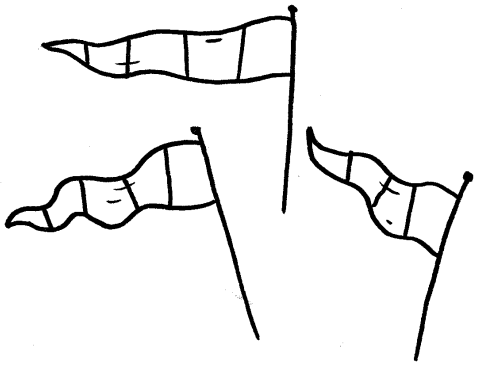
Capricorns – *River Bear Your Bones* (RISE ABOVE RECORDS)

Enslaved – *Vertebrae* (NUCLEAR BLAST)

Gojira – *The Way Of All Flesh* (PROSTHETIC)

Cattle Decapitation – *The Harvest Floor* (METAL BLADE)

Bahimiron – *Southern Nihilizm*
(MORIBUND RECORDS)



TOM O

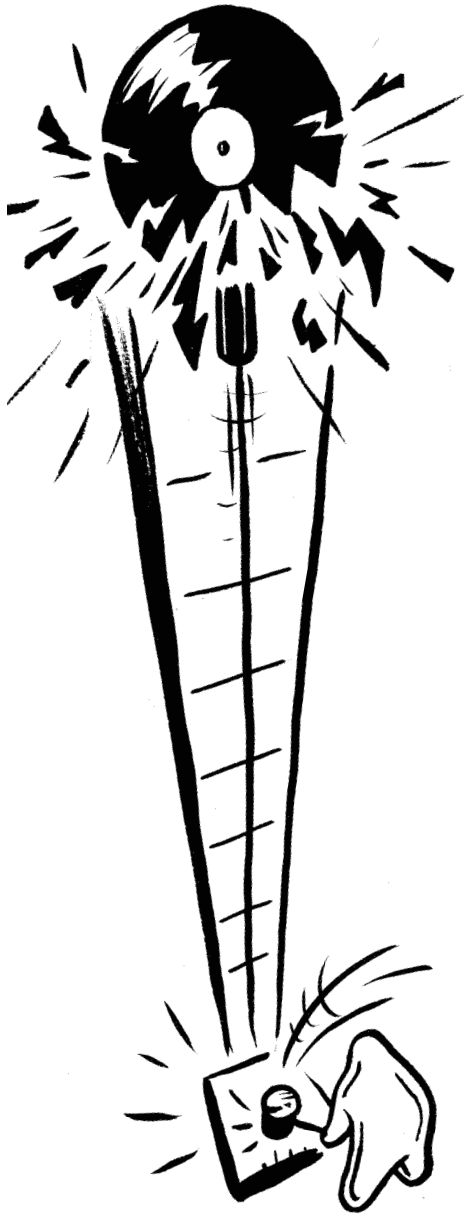
Jacaszek – *Treny* (MIASMA)
Polish composer Michal Jacaszek creates an electro-acoustic sound using live strings (violin and cello) and wordless female vocals manipulated through his laptop. Jacaszek adds in and takes out layer after layer of samples and noise from bass tones played backwards to tape hiss and electronic clicks and blips. Modern classical, electronica or experimental, whatever you want to call it; the end result is pretty fucking deep and I can't stop coming back to it.

Alps – *III* (TYPE)
S.F.'s Alps take you on a meditative psychedelic journey you do not want to end. The album starts out with a repetitive Steve Reich like chiming and adds in swooping guitar distortion with Eastern influences. Psychedelia permeates the whole album and is often held in place with a simplistic repeated bass line and a krautrock locked groove as a backbone. Each track is pretty epic whether it's a more acoustic jam song, or a psychedelic noise freak-out. Features member(s) of Tarentel but expect a more focused and bright sound.

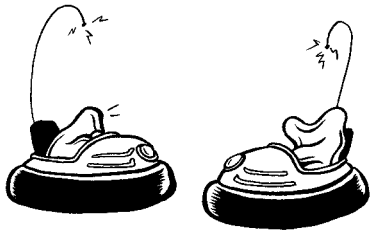
Jessica Lea Mayfield – *With Blasphemy So Heartfelt*
(POLYMER)
I first heard Jessica Lea Mayfield when I went to see Lucero at Bottom of the Hill a few months back. Her dark country folk songs were good enough for me to look her up online when I got home. It was shocking to find out she was just 18 years old because there's certainly an old soul singing these heartbroken songs. She's going through those emotionally tough teenage years but with wisdom beyond her years. Fellow Ohioan Dan Auerbach of the Black Keys held production duties and joined in on guitar on a few tracks.

Pig Heart Transplant – *Nature b/w Nurture* (DEER HEALER)
In a genre where collaborations are few and far between, it's great to see a new approach. Pig Heart Transplant is Jon Kortland's (Iron Lung, Gob) new-ish project where he teams up with a different grouping of members from bands such as Spazz, Lords of Light, Walls, Unpersons, Brain Oil, Lana Dagales, Artimus Pyle, Blue Sabbath Black Cheer for each track/release. On this two-song 7" Kortland et al. bulldoze through the muck at a slow, repetitive rate. This is dark, heavy, and absolutely frightening music. In other words, it's awesome. PHT's releases are very limited but new releases come out every few months.

Menahan Street Band – *Make the Road by Walking*
(DUNHAM)
A fun album of authentic sounding soul music mixed with Afro-Latin rhythms and jazz stylings very much like Mulatu Astatke's recordings on *Ethiopiques Vol 4*. Coming from members of Antibalas and the Dap-Kings, you know it is done right.



SAN FRANCISCO



AARON H.

In 5th grade I realized I was a loser.
It's all been downhill from there.

(This one goes out to Party Marty...
Wherever you are.)

Deerhunter – *Microcastle* (KRANKY)
Great stuff. If you dug the other albums, you'll love this one. I don't know why these guys aren't huge. (Check out Atlas Sound if you're craving more). Find this awesome record in rock.

Deadmau5 – *Random Album Title*
(UHRA)
Abrasive, aggressive, repetitive, poppy dance music. Most people would find that statement pretty universal for all dance music, so I definitely would say this album is not for everyone. I can't explain it, but I loved it. Find it in electronica.

Alias – *Resurgam* (ANTICON)
I've yet to decide what to label this album as... Trip-hop? Who cares? Its good. Find it in the Hip Hop section.

Animal Collective – *Merriweather Post Pavilion* (DOMINO)
The latest and probably most "casual listener" friendly album from Animal Collective. While I wouldn't call this my favorite Animal Collective release, I do thoroughly enjoy it. Poppy, but not without a touch of their old scream-ridden style. Find it in rock.

The Crooked Jades – *Shining Darkness* (JADE NOTE MUSIC)
One of the best country/folk albums I've ever heard. It contains a diverse series of haunting and upbeat instrumentals as well as beautifully written Appalachian ballads that cut you to the core. Find it in folk.

Tip:
Every genre of music has something to offer. Just dig deep.

ARVEL

Eagle Scout

The Cairo Gang – *Twyxt Wyrd*
(DISNEYLAND REFORM PARTY)
Twyxt Wyrd is the second album by The Cairo Gang. The Cairo Gang is the solo project of Emmett Kelly, whose name may sound familiar to some, as Kelly is an accomplished accompanist (he has toured as a guitarist for Baby Dee, recorded with Edith Frost, and is a guitar & vocal mainstay in the Bonnie "Prince" Billy band). The music on this album, however, is a whole new craft. Though Kelly's music brings many references (from jazz to folk to experimental) to mind, it is altogether forward looking; and for that reason features some of the finest songwriting I have heard in a long time. Indeed, *Twyxt Wyrd* seems more like a second debut rather than a successor to The Cairo Gang's first album. Released on his own label, Disneyland Reform Party, the eight tracks on *Twyxt Wyrd* were recorded live on all acoustic instruments — IN ONLY FOUR HOURS — on a winter day in Chicago. The result is a personal, soulful, and well-engineered snapshot of The Cairo Gang just as Kelly intended it to be. The recording (credited to drummer Noritaka Tanaka) is open and clear, allowing Kelly's delicate and nuanced vocals to soar over his deceptively simple finger-style guitar. Featuring heavy-hitter Joshua Abrams on upright bass and a handful of guest appearances by other exceptional Chicago musicians, this album is solid to its core. LIMITED TO 500 copies.

Lady Genius – *Lady Genius*
(GOLD ROBOT)
What we have here is the debut 10" EP from local musicians, Lady Genius, on the local label Gold Robot records. Contained therein are six memorable & almost-over-the-top intelligent pop songs. If you like the Magnetic Fields, the New Pornographers, or music from the Elephant 6 collective (e.g., Olivia Tremor Control & Neutral Milk Hotel) then you should definitely check this out and give it a careful listen. Keeping with the times, the record also comes with a free digital download of the album. LIMITED TO 500 COPIES.

Davy Graham – *Folk, Blues and Beyond . . .* (STAMFORD AUDIO/LES COUSINS)
Before there was Bert Jansch, John Renbourn, Richard Thompson, John Martyn, Nick Drake, Jimmy Page, and Ray Davies... there was Davy Graham. Arguably the most influential guitarist of the 1960s British folk revival — often cited as a major influence to all the artists listed above — Davy Graham pushed the envelope with his all-encompassing finger-style guitar mastery. This groundbreaking live album runs the gamut of musical styles, incorporating American blues and jazz, Moroccan and Indian influences, and even a Dylan cover seamlessly. *Folk, Blues and Beyond* was released within a year of his collaboration with Shirley Collins, Folk Roots, New Routes, in which his non-traditional playing scandalized uptight British folksters about as much as an electrified Dylan shook-up Pete Seeger's America. As a bonus, this LP includes the often-covered non-album track "Anji" (check out Simon and Garfunkel and Pentangle's excellent covers), for which he is most famous. Available on vinyl for the first time since its initial release, this issue is pressed on high-quality 180-gram vinyl. LIMITED TO 500 hand-numbered copies.

Mississippi Records and Sublime Frequencies
Continuing in the vein of limited releases . . . here are two great labels that have been releasing amazing compilations of otherwise difficult-to-come-by music: Mississippi Records & Sublime Frequencies. The two labels are commonly thrown around in the same conversation and I have even heard people confuse releases between the two. I will not go into depth on the overall greatness of either of these labels — as there is much to say — however, here is a brief description of each.

Sublime Frequencies: Incredible recordings of amazing music from far-away lands. Their releases are diverse, obscure, and consistently interesting to say the least. Some excellent examples include: nomadic guitar virtuosos from the Sahara; field recordings of radio and short wave transmissions from Java; ethnic minority music from Vietnam; and the otherworldly sounds of dragonflies exploding from irrepressible lust and heartbreak. You will not find these sounds anywhere else.

Mississippi Records: Incredible compilations of hard to find music running the gamut between African palm wine music to American blues and Gospel. You may find some of these tracks in their original form on eBay, but you will not find them in such great company as on these carefully-curated and well-loved compilations. The label's motto is "Gold over money," so chances are you will be able to afford them too. Mississippi also has many non-compilation reissues under their belt and some new releases from local Portland artists — see: The Rats – *The Rats*, Irma Thomas – *Irma Thomas Sings*, and Philip Cohran – *The Malcolm X Memorial* for some excellent examples.

Robert Wyatt – *Comicopera*
(DOMINO)
Do you ever wonder how much amazing-music-that-you-never-heard is sitting right under your nose? More specifically, do you ever wonder how many amazing critically acclaimed artists that were part of a highly influential and also critically acclaimed band are releasing critically acclaimed albums right under your nose? Well... here is where I make the shameful admission that I had never heard any of Robert Wyatt's solo records until a couple weeks ago, when a friend put *Comicopera* on. In short, this album is amazing, beautiful, and worth many careful listens. *Comicopera* is divided into three acts, each as varied, musically interesting, and profound as the next. Wyatt wrote this album deeply displeased with the direction in which western civilization was headed, and the acts touch somewhat anachronistically upon difficult topics (e.g., politics, religion, and war) without compromising his poeticism or its beautiful musical backdrop. Perhaps the most apt description of Wyatt I have read came from an Amazon review in which he was described as "synonymous with uncompromising poignancy." This album received excellent ratings across the board and Ranked #1 in The Wire's "Top Ten Records of the Year 2007." For the Radiohead fans out there... *Comicopera* comes highly recommended from Thom Yorke who admittedly could not bring himself to listen past the first track, as it was "so beautiful." Wyatt is joined on this album by long-time collaborators and close friends — Brian Eno, Paul Weller, and Phil Manzanera along with many other great musicians.

Barn Owl – *The Conjurer*
(ROOT STRATA)
Since I am doing a little delving in the past here, I will also touch upon the future. Local droners Barn Owl will be releasing a new LP/CD this spring on the local label Root Strata. Self-described as their "most fully realized recording to date," this album — featuring Chad Collins (Flying Canyon) on drums —

will surely be one not to miss. It should come as no surprise if you haven't heard one of Barn Owl's previous recordings, as most of their releases to-date have been extremely limited and are now out of print. So, check out how much soul these guys put into their music at one of their highly recommended live shows. Notably, their last album, *From Our Mouths A Perpetual Light*, was selected by Julian Cope for vinyl of the month. If you are still not convinced . . . perhaps the list of artists these young droners have been asked to play with will stir some interest, including: Earth, Jesse Sykes, Sir Richard Bishop, & Illusion of Safety among many others. Note: if you are reading this, then the record is probably already on our shelves.

Prizehog – *Prizehog (Alive and Well)* (SELF RELEASED)

BOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOM!!!!!!!!!!!!
The debut CD-R from San Francisco's latest doom-drone-stoner-experimental-sludge metal trio. If you like Earth, Sunn 0))), Boris, Melvins, Buzzov*en, Weedeater... etc. then you will love this. Epic! Self-recorded, illustrated, packaged, and released... this record is LIMITED to however many they are willing to put together, so get it now!

Tip:
Watch excellent videos of touring and local Bay Area bands by The American Opry here: http://www.youtube.com/user/theamericanopry

AUDRA

What, me worry?

Killing of a Chinese Bookie - Criterion Collection – Directed by John Cassavetes

This re-release of Cassavetes' unconventional character-driven crime drama from 1976 contains restored versions of the director's cut and the theatrical release. You can never get enough Cosmo Vitelli!!

A Colbert Christmas: The Greatest Gift of All

Faux right wing pundit Stephen Colbert's excellent take on the Christmas specials of yesteryear, *a la* Andy Williams. Even Colbert's sweater is hilarious. Special appearances by Willie Nelson, Elvis Costello, Jon Stewart, and a man-eating bear. If you don't celebrate Christmas, you may want to watch it on America's Christmas: the Fourth of July.

Casino Royale: 40th Anniversary Edition – Directed by Ken Hughes, John Huston, Joseph McGrath, Robert Parrish, Val Guest

It comes with collector's cards fit for framing! Yeah, I'll get around to that.

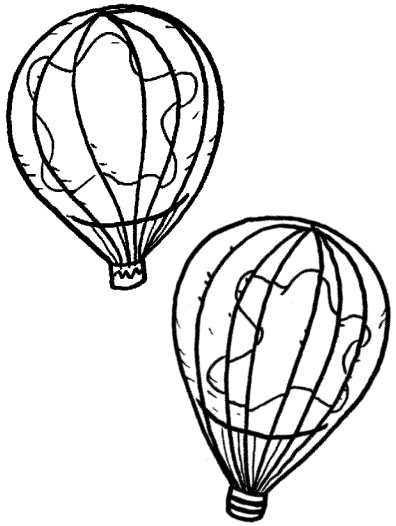
Nip/Tuck - Season 5

Yes, it's trashy. So is LA. I love LA.

Gypsy Caravan: When the Road Bends – Directed by Jasmine Dellal

If you loved Latcho Drom and are a fan of Romani music and culture in general...watch this too.

Tip:
Potrzebie.



BILLY LUDLOW

Squash every week into a day.

My Bloody Valentine (reissue) – Directed by George Mihalka

Besides being in 3D (which was awesome) the remake was an atrocity, but it did give the original an excuse to be reissued. I'm a bit of a horrorhead but I'll admit that I initially only watched this one because one of my favorite bands is its namesake. I was, however, pleasantly surprised that there was a damn cool movie behind the name. A slasher before that genre was done to death (that wasn't a pun), cool gore and twists, and the real mine location makes Crystal Lake look like a pleasant meadow. Oh, and the reissue features a bunch more gore that was cut from the original.

Deerhunter – *Microcastle*

(KRANKY)
I'll admit I wasn't really a huge fan of their previous release, *Cryptograms*, despite their interesting sound and the fact that they had, at least, a delay pedal on every instrument. It just seemed like more went into the sound than went into the song on that release. But after one listen to this one you can tell that they nailed it this time around. Amazing pop songs that are both upbeat and somber at the same time and always full of atmosphere. And since Bradford Cox can't stop writing songs, so much so that he accidentally leaks upcoming full albums on the internet, this album includes a bonus full length!

Loop – *Heaven's End / Fade Out* (reissues)

(REACTOR)
Reissues of their 1987 and 1988 releases. These guys live in a weird grey area where shoegaze stops and psych rock starts...or vice versa, whatever. Lots of pedals, swirling guitars and cool hooks mixed with an interesting rhythm section and full on jam freakouts. If you like neo-psych bands like the Black Angels then you will love these guys. Like riding a gunboat down the Mekong River delta while popping codeine and sipping poppy pod tea. Well...maybe not that cool.

Teenage Filmstars – *Star* (reissue) (CREATION)

Kind of sounds like the lost tapes of 'Loveless.'

Aidan Baker / Tim Hecker – *Fantasma Parastasie*

(ALIEN8 RECORDINGS)
If you are at all a fan of Tim Hecker or Aidan Baker (and/or his work in Nadja) you have a pretty good idea of what you're getting yourself into with this release. If you're not at all familiar with either of these guys then do yourself a favor and pick this up. Hecker processes guitars to the point that the instrument is unrecognizable and what is left are waves of white noise wrapped around beautiful melodies. Baker accentuates Hecker's melodic sensibilities with his low end doom and deep tones. At many points it's hard to see where one artist stops and the other begins...but you're not really thinking about that when you're being barraged by a lush wall of sound.

Tip:
If you're in town check your local listings for the follow bands; Prizehog, And If Your Hands Were Metal That Would Mean Something, Ozmadawn. They all make a splendid noise not heard since Sousa.

BRENT JAMES

Brent James is quickly approaching his TENTH year here at Amoeba Music, and LOVING every minute of it. "To be surrounded by such creative and knowledgeable people on a daily basis is unreal, and I owe everything I am today to each of them!", says Brent. Positioned in various places around the San Francisco store, BJ has pretty much seen it all, but looks forward to experiencing more. Brent is the vocalist for the SF-based band, "The SEXX Act", and is active in the community with "Project Adapt" — a recovery program dedicated to helping individuals that have substance abuse problems re-enter society. Brent can be reached at Laseefs@hotmail.com, Myspace.com/sexxband or simply by contacting him at Amoeba San Francisco.

Prizehog – *Prizehog*

(SELF RELEASED)
This much anticipated release by SF trio reinstates that we in the Bay Area have just about the most diverse music scene in the world. Just when things are getting a bit "stale" (for lack of a better word), along comes Prizehog, which mixes a bit of noise, a smidge of metal and even a touch of prog in their debut opus. Unrelenting in its approach, by the time you make it to the album's beefy closer, "Husky," one feels as if he's been locked in the Tower of London; only with electricity and cocktails! Simply excellent! And rarely does a band capture the exuberance of their live act on disc, but it happens here... Get this now!

Judy Garland – *Love Songs*

(SAVOY JAZZ)
Taken from "The Judy Garland Show," these rare recordings have been assembled for the first time on this fantabulous collection...And, as always, Judy shows complete control of her enormous vocal talents. Her rendition of Johnny Mercer's "Come Rain or Come Shine" is worth the price of admission alone. Hands down one of the best compilations ever to be released in memory of Ms. Garland!

Madonna – *Sticky & Sweet Tour*

This CD/DVD combo encapsulates M's extremely successful '08 outing, which was a *Tron* looking laser-tag spiritual dance party! Truly one of the most prolific performers of our time-love her or not, and by the end of her shows, we the audience are exhausted, but to Madonna the "Beat Goes On" . . .

***Vertigo (Special Edition)* – Directed by Alfred Hitchcock**

***Psycho (Special Edition)* – Directed by Alfred Hitchcock**

***Star Wars: The Clone Wars* – Directed by Dave Filoni**

Tip: *Do yourself a favor and check out the multitude of local talent in our beautiful city, literally something for everybody!*

BRIANDAVIS

Can't eat...talking...www.briandavisvoice.com

John Doe & the Sadies – *Country Club* (YEP ROC)

Department of Eagles – *In Ear Park* (4AD)

Land of Talk – *Some Are Lakes* (SADDLE CREEK)

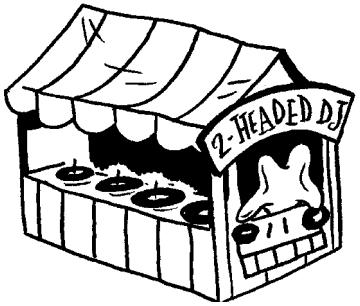
The Week That Was – *The Week That Was* (MEMPHIS INDUSTRIES)

Cotton Jones – *Paranoid Cocoon* (SUICIDE SQUEEZE)

Kasey Chambers & Shane Nicholson – *Rattlin' Bones* (SUGAR HILL)

Blitzen Trapper – *Furr* (SUB POP)

Tip:
All the fine rekkids listed above are in Amoeba SF's listening stations...bring up a copy, scan the barcode, and check 'em out!



CISSIE

Kriegshög – Hardcore Hell
(HEARTFIRST)
The noisy, unrelenting, desperate hardcore sound of this new-ish Japanese punk band is the perfect doom-time soundtrack to compliment the headlines.

Lebenden Toten – *Near Dark*
(WICKED WITCH)
On their second LP, Portland's Lebenden Toten treats us to more of their ultra noisy, hiss'n'squeak filled hardcore punk. The stomping-ly bleak title track has been on constant repeat lately.

Sacred Shock – *Sacred Shock*
(SCHIZOPHRENIC)
Austin, Texas has the best tacos and Sacred Shock...

XYX – *Sistema de Terminacion Sexual* (S-S)
My friend Randy says XYX sounds like a riot grrrl slumber party. He's right. This Mexican three-piece has written some fun, chaotic and catchy minimalist punk songs that are ideal palate cleansers to all the dark and ugly music on my list.

Invasión – *La Caza* (LA VIDA ES UN MUS)
Dark, dense, and atmospheric hardcore punk from Barcelona, Spain on the La Vida Es Un Mus label. Some parts of the record lurch along, slowly burning and building up into some sort of madness, while at other times the songs blast away, barely allowing for a bit of itching room.

DJ TRIZZAE
(A.K.A. DJ TRAECERATOPS)

Survivor of 2009, the Coldest Winter...

Kanye West – *808s + Heatbreak*
(ROC-A-FELLA RECORDS)
I wish that I didn't feel this album, but I do. I hear people say that it's sad and depressing, and yeah, I can see that, but it's sooo much more than that to me. I'm not going to sit here and try to do an academic-styled critique of Mr. West's latest album *808s + Heartbreak*, because there are many smart people out there who have done so already, and frankly better than I can. I will say, that whenever I talk to people about this album (or any by him), I get the old, "I don't like Kanye, he's an asshole." OK, point taken. But what does that have to do with the music? Get over yourself! Does anybody ever say, "Monet was a good painter, but he sure was an ass?" NO, because that would be dumb. So please stop saying how much you don't like Kanye West. Nobody with a brain cares...you shouldn't care either. The art stands alone and this album is good. Maybe it's not for you, but I personally feel every single song on this album (with the exception of that live track. I can't get down with that... It's too much for me). My standouts include: "Robocop," "Paranoid," "Coldest Winter," "See You In My Nightmares"... Hell, the whole album. Just listen to it, sheesh. P.S. Kanye West is an ass (or so I've heard).

Tip:
Listen to only good music from now on. Don't waste your time talking bad about stuff that you don't like, just ignore it and focus on what you do enjoy. Keep an open mind, and live life and love completely! Also, shop at Amoeba Music and bring a friend along!

DON MEGA

Floor Manager

Kylie Minogue – *Boombox remixes* (ASTRALWERKS)

The Bird & The Bee – *Ray Guns Are Not Just the Future* (BLUE NOTE)

Antony and The Johnsons – *The Crying Light* (SECRETLY CANADIAN)

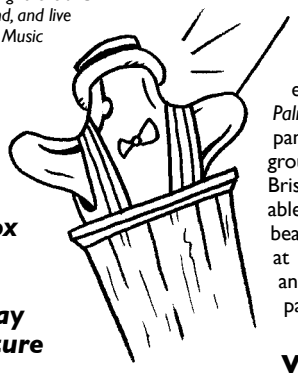
***Patti Smith-Dream of Life* – Directed by Steven Sebring**

***Vicky Christina Barcelona* – Directed by Woody Allen**

TRIXY GRACE

One ma'am band.

Amanda Palmer – *Who Killed Amanda Palmer* (ROADRUNNER)
With her debut solo release, Amanda Palmer (of Brechtian punk cabaret duo The Dresden Dolls) triumphantly wins our hearts and minds with the fine articulation of her piano playing and songwriting ability. Since the September 16 release, I've surrendered my entire heart to this poignant collection of twelve songs. With cymbals crashing and keys banging your inquisition, *Who Killed Amanda Palmer* launches into space with "Astronaut." Rattle those jazz hands and swig a bottle of bubbly to "Leeds United!" Very endearingly, "Blake Says" references such songs by The Velvet Underground with poetic endearment. Cranking into the epicenter of the album, "Guitar Hero" (preferably up full blast) has me singing into my hairbrush with one leg perched on the vanity in the powder room, not to mention ferocious intervals of air-piano/guitar. Several times over, I've paused and contemplated existence to "Have to Drive." The list goes on. Hear it to believe it! Your ear buds will never pry from your precious skull again! But wait, there's more... This album also boasts an incredible line-up of other artists! When reading the credits, I nearly lost my composure. To name a few: produced by Ben Folds, Zoë Keating (formerly of Rasputina) featured on cello, and Annie Clark (of St. Vincent) featured on vocals for one cover song. Take a gander at the back cover of the album and you will find an article written by renowned novelist and comics writer Neil Gaiman. *Who Killed Amanda Palmer* live performances are accompanied by the highly talented theatric group The Danger Ensemble from Brisbane, AU. This musical gem is available on vinyl now, too! More tidbits and beautiful, visual stimuli can be found at www.whokilledamandapalmer.com and myspace.com/whokilledamandapalmer.



Vermillion Lies – *What's in the Box?* (INDIE)
Do you like to waltz, tango, or perform on a tightrope or trapeze? If you have answered "yes" to any of these, I have the most perfect album for you! Ladies and gentlemen, I present to you a magical (and lucky us, local!) Oakland-based cabaret duo who remind me how to smile and laugh after a severe case of amnesia. This 2008 release of *What's in the Box?* has indeed cured my bluest, shady days with bright, vermillion fervor. Cleverly and wittily written lyrics paired with fascinating and, at times, hilarious instruments earn this album a special place in my heart right next to the band members themselves, sisters Kim and Zoe Boekbinder. Aside from potentially charming your shirt off with their guitar and accordion prowess, they serenade any idle feet within earshot into motion with gasoline cans, BBQ grills, pots and pans, tin cans, typewriters and other sundries. Among a hodgepodge of other rad instruments, this album also contains piano... and toy piano too! Aside from this review, www.vermillionlies.com and myspace.com/vermillionlies may aid you in selecting this album. Linger a bit to soak in the imagery! I fancy their keen style a great deal. And if you happen to be anywhere in the world that is lucky enough to be hosting a live Vermillion Lies show, you'd be a fool not to check it out! P.S. I also recommend everything else they've ever written and released — past, present, and future.

Tip Top Trio – *Tip Top Trio*
Man, oh man! I dare you to hold back from cutting a rug to this one. Fifty smackers says you can't contain

yourself! These tomcats keep the dance floor hot with a rip-roarin' guitar duo and a slip-slappin' upright bass. Whatever it is on your agenda for the day — tackling a mountain of filthy dishes in the kitchen after last night's party or cruising to the beach with your sugarbaby, this album is a perfect tag-along. It will get you there with style. If rockabilly isn't the first genre choice on your list, just leave your inhibitions behind for this swingin' treat!

Thelonious Monk – *Thelonious Himself* (RIVERSIDE/OJC)
If there's one man I'm ever going home to, it's Thelonious. Uncork the wine, lay out the paints, set up the canvas... next thing you know, it's "'Round Midnight," and I'm "All Alone," but "Monks Mood" is the place to be!

The Velvet Underground & Nico – *The Velvet Underground & Nico*
(POLYDOR)
This album has mysteriously permeated my psyche with such nostalgic wonders, time and time again. The light and cheery and the dark and eerie are here folded into one immaculately spellbinding musical prism. Before I was but a twinkle in my mother's eye, some of my favorite artists featured on this album came together to do justice to a now bygone era of transpiration and beauty. Like the ghost of a dear, departed friend, *The Velvet Underground & Nico* pensively echoes on and on, but not without bringing a newfound sense of meaning, no matter where it finds me.

Tip:
Exploration of past musical eras (especially the earliest known and recorded jazz, notably New Orleans) has fine-tuned my tastes and influenced my own art the most. Collectively, through music, I have potentially discovered an embodiment of who I was before I was incarnated into this mess of hair, teeth, eyeballs, and fingernails. myspace.com/trixygrace

ERIC

Hudson Mohawke – *6X7* (ALL CITY)

Aussitôt Mort – *Montuenga*
(PUREPAINSUGAR/LEVEL PLANE)

Belong – *Same Places* (Slow Version) (TABLE OF ELEMENTS)

Benoît Pioulard – *Temper* (KRANKY)

True Widow – *True Widow*
(END SOUNDS)

Efterklang – *North American Tour EP* (RUMRAKET)

ERIN

Vivian Girls – *Vivian Girls*
(MAULED BY TIGERS/IN THE RED)
A recent favorite. What's funny is, it had to grow on me a bit. This is rough-around-the-edges, noisy, all-girl punk with pretty harmonies, and lyrics about boys with wild eyes who won't walk next to you on the street. I feel like I could have written every song on here, if I knew how to write such simple, direct, awesome pop songs. Tough and tender, pretty and not — this rules.

Gang Gang Dance – *Saint Dymphna* (THE SOCIAL REGISTRY/WARP)
Gang Gang Dance is a group of New York art kids and this is their fourth album and, so it would seem, a pop crossover attempt. It's a mix of tribal sounds and techno beats with a singer who sounds A LOT like Kate Bush when she wants to. Of all the bands on this list, these guys are the real innovators. Music for the future?

Crystal Stilts – *Alight of Night*
(SLUMBERLAND RECORDS)
Friends with Vivian Girls, Crystal Stilts shares some similarities, but are spookier, janglier, more atmospheric. I like the singer's bored, kind of flat singing. Lyrically, it's a little dark — with songs about shutting yourself in your room and being scared of the city. They also throw in a surf riff. Oh, and they're obviously Jesus and Mary Chain fans. I had to say it.

Lykke Li – *Youth Novels*
(LL RECORDINGS)
This one really appeals to the teenage girl in me. Infectious, catchy, feel-good pop from a 22-year-old Swedish former fly girl (watch the videos). Danceable, with heavy use of a wood block. Adorable, yet sassy. Yay!

***Wild Combination: A Portrait of Arthur Russell* – Directed by Matt Wolf**
A sweet, sad portrait of avant garde cellist Arthur Russell, who died of AIDS in 1992. For those unfamiliar with his music, check out the album *World of Echo*. His songs are mostly wispy, pretty, echoey ballads and are truly unique. The most memorable scenes in this documentary are the wonderful interviews with his parents and boyfriend.

ESTEN

Ivo Papasov – *Dance of the Falcon*

Hermeto Pascoal e Grupo – *Mundo Verde Esperanca*

Mauricio Kagel – *Acustica*

Yomo Toro – *La Herencia*

Sergey Kuryokhin – *Absolutely Great! in California, 1988*

GABRIEL

Vid Maker.

(the) Melvins – *(A) Senile Animal*
(HYDRA HEAD RECORDS)
[4XLP Vinyl Set] A must have! So killer!

***Crank* – Directed by Mark Neveldine and Brian Taylor**
[Blu-Ray] A unrepentant dead man on a mission. Jason Statham rules.

***The Machine Girl* – Directed by Noboru Iguchi**
Low production value and creative gore make this direct to video blood bonanza a hit!

***Vanishing Point* – Directed by Richard C. Sarafian**
[Blu Ray] My favorite '70s muscle car movie. Visit the last American frontier via a Dodge Challenger! Get your road rage on and watch it with *Two-Lane Blacktop* and *Smokey and the Bandit.*

***Låt den rätte komma in / Let The Right One In* – Directed by Tomas Alfredson**
Best vampire movie in a long time.

JAMES DILLON

fuck a duck!

Sublime Frequencies
You can still travel the world on your hi-fi with Sublime Frequencies radio and field recordings of earth. they have released thirty four compact discs, five l.p.'s and eight dvd's from all over the world, so far. these are sounds that you have never heard before. i play these all the time. also buy something by the Sun City Girls. you'll be glad you did.

Sharon Jones – *How Long 7"*
(DAPTONE)
this is the sharon jones vocal with reworked music by tickla. it is a killer rock steady track that takes the song to a new level. priceless. buy this any anything else on daptone records. sharon jones has three lp's out that are essential and they just put out a gospel collection from mississippi. they put out l.p.'s as well as c.d.'s and press almost everything on 45 to boot. modern classics!

Polk Miller – *Polk Miller and His Old South Quartette*
don't fail to hear this cd. "I think that Polk Miller and his wonderful four is about the only thing the country can furnish that is originally and utterly American." — Mark Twain

in 1892 polk miller created a traveling show of banjo tunes,nostalgic dialect stories and a lecture. without resorting to farce or black-face. these recordings are from 1909 and 1928 and must be heard to be believed.

Harry and Jeanie West – *Smoky Mountian Ballads*
have had a copy of this l.p. for years and i usually listen to music of this type from an earlier era. but these two hit the nail on the head with their renditions of classic old time tunes. they accompany themselves with guitar, banjo and mandolin. the har-

monies are heavenly. this was newly reissued and i feel that it deserved your attention.

FM3 – *Buddha Machine 2.0*
fm3 have done it again. this is part two of their buddha machine. these are boxes made in china with buddist chants that are used for meditation. fm3 made their own version with loops they created. the new one has nine new loops and a pitch shifter so you can tune it or just make it sound wiggily. only for the curious.

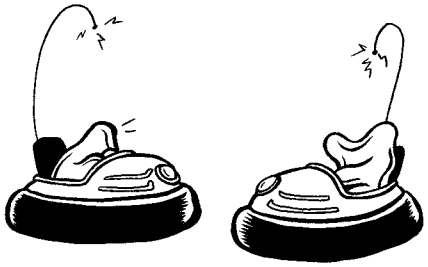
Raphael Saadiq – *The Way I See It*
this record sounds like it was recorded for motown in the sixties. the production is excellent, and the lyrics are hopeful. this record makes me feel good and it will do the same for you. not many artists can pull off this retro sound but this man has done it. avaliable on l.p. and limited edition 45 box set with an exclusive track.

Neil Hamburger – *Sings Country Winners* (DRAG CITY)
few comedians can make the transition from comedian to musical entertainer but neil has managed to do it with his *country winners* l.p. he has hired top session musicians for this project and the quality shows through. unlike the "hip" comic of today, neil actually tells jokes, and is funny. something we need more of in this world.

***Sprigs of Time* – Various Artists**
(HONEST JOHN'S)
his is the first in a series of *78s from the emi archive*. like the "give me love" collection that honest john's put out, every song on this is amazing. unforgettable. the closest thing to time travel yet invented.

Lee Perry (ON-U SOUND RECORD)
is not out in the states, but i have heard that the new lee perry album is a killer. it was produced with the help of adrian sherwood so you know that means it will be amazing to say the least. two legendary masters of reggae production.

Tip:
I love making buttons! One inch buttons and magnets: www.potatopotato.etsy.com



JEFFERSON

Group Bombino – *Music from Niger: Guitars from Agadez, Vol. 2*
(SUBLIME FREQUENCIES)

Soundtrack of Our Lives – *Communion* (YEP ROCK)

Sir Lord Von Raven – *Please Throw Me Back in the Ocean*
(HAPPY PARTS)

El Kinto – *Circa 1968*
(LION PRODUCTIONS)

Cold Sun – *Dark Shadows*
(WORLD IN SOUND)

JEREMY

Guy with the hat.

Amadou & Mariam – *Welcome to Mali* (BECAUSE MUSIC/NONESUCH)
They're unstoppable. Production was a little on the slick side for die-hards but this is undeniably a great offering from one of the hottest bands in the world.

Orchestre Poly Rythmo de Cotonou – *The Voudoun Effect: Funk and Sato from Benin's Obscure Labels* (ANALOG AFRICA)
Damn hot afro-funk. All I gotta say about that. Enjoy!

Shankar, Garbarek, Hussain, Gurtu – *Song For Everyone* (ECM)
A re-release of a classic from 1985. This is like an Indian classical take on a score for *Blade Runner*. If you don't follow me, just listen. You won't be sorry!

JESS

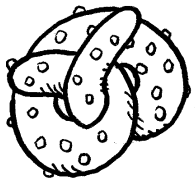
Sex Vid – *Communal Living*
(DOM AMERICA)
Olympia, Washington hardcore punk! Devastating!!!

Blank Dogs – *On Two Sides*
(TROUBLEMAN UNLIMITED)
Terribly good fuzzed out jams from Brooklyn . . . feels like The Velvets shoulda spent more time with a synth and doodling in their bedrooms.

***Cazumbi - African Sixties Garage Vol. 1* – Various Artists**
(NOSMOKERECORDS)
Congo, Angola, Mozambique, you name it — it's an outrageously raw take on a Western beat, home-made instruments, huge amps, and Beatle boots.

The Rats – *The Rats*
(MISSISSIPPI RECORDS)
The Rats were Toody and Fred's (from Dead Moon) answer to ferocious New Wave. Nothing compares to their original LPs, but seeing how they fetch $200, you'll just have to abandon yourself to bedroom dancing with this Mississippi reissue for the meantime.

Animals & Men – *Never Bought, Never Sold* (MISSISSIPPI RECORDS)
Mississippi really made a go of making the classics readily available this year, and the Animals & Men reissue serves as the first vinyl reissue of the legendary girl-fronted beat/DIY/post-punk group outta early '80s Somerset, England. (And yes, nerds, the mixes and tracks are different enough that you'll need it in addition to the Hyped2Death CD-R reissues!)



JOEY

BLU-RAY:
Groundhog Day, Third Man, There Will Be Blood, Black Narcissus (UK), and *Red Desert* (UK).

NTSC:
Simon of the Desert, Brand Upon The Brain!, Mishima: A Life in Four Chapters, Vampyr and *The New World (The Extended Cut).*

PAL:
La Notte, The Devil Probably, A Man Escaped, The Long Day Closes, and *L'Argent.*

BOXSETS:
Godfather Trilogy (The Restoration), The Films of Budd Boetticher, Mizoguchi's Fallen Women (Eclipse), Alfred Hitchcock Premiere Collection, and *4 by Agnès Varda (Criterion).*

JOHN W. GARCIA

Too soon?

Soft Machine: Alive In Paris 1970 – Directed by Claude Ventura
A vital, stunningly historic issue by one of the greatest versions of one of the greatest improvising rock-jazz ensembles of the late Sixties/early Seventies. It documents a performance by the rare quintet version of the band (Dean/Dobson/Ratledge/Hopper/Wyatt) in peak form, recorded for a then-new half-hour French TV music series. They were the first band featured, and their set was so popular that they aired a second show using the unused footage they shot for the first show. Most of the cameras were onstage and backstage, so some of the angles are unusually intimate and intense. It is only slightly marred by the occasional overdubbed cheers, applause, and drumming [!?] that apparently were used to disguise some of the sound editing that needed to be done, and to create an atmosphere of wild abandon. This was unnecessary as the impassioned playing and hyper-kinetic interaction of the participants (particularly Lyn Dobson's Pied Piperesque reeds, harmonica and vocals [!], Robert Wyatt's jet-propelled drumming and cheerfully heartfelt singing, and Mike Ratledge's mesmeric keys) provide all the visceral surge one needs. Hugh Hopper and Elton Dean were pretty great, too. Do delve.

Hampton Grease Band: Plays Music To Eat
The reunion no one expected from a band that few people seemed to care about. Their only album, *Music To Eat*, was released in 1971 and shared the distinction (with Jimmy Giuffre's *Free Fall* [1962]) of being one of the worst selling/fastest deleted albums in Columbia Records history. Of course, this is more of a testament to record label incompetence than to any sort of musical deficiency, as the near-unanimous praise the band's live appearances garnered at the time can attest. Their gruff/heady mixture of country/blues/psych-prog/jazz, often in the same twenty-minute song, inspired favorable comparisons to Beefheart and Zappa (who was a fan) and, in a way, could be seen as a precursor to many an egregious jam band. But, as this 2006 show (prompted by the passing of founding member/co-leader Harold Kelling) shot in their home base of Atlanta, GA demonstrates, their combined forces reveal something altogether more powerful. Glenn Phillips' stuttering vibrato alone is fearsome enough to decimate the Trucks/Anastasios/Haynes/Jer-Bears

of this world (and the next), and his dexterous interplay with subbing guitarist Bill Elsey (of the Swimming Pool Q's) is jaw-dropping AND subtle. The superb rhythm section has lost none of its ability to cushion and spur, and while Bruce Hampton's bark lacks some of its former bite, he remains an avuncular and compelling front man.

Roy Buchanan: Live From Austin TX (Austin City Limits) (DVD)

Jeff Beck dedicated a song to him. Robbie Robertson wanted to play like him. Martin Scorsese featured him prominently over the closing credits of *The Departed.* It seems that those in the know always knew, but the sometimes tragic details of Buchanan's life and death would indicate that perhaps he himself never quite knew. One of the great virtuoso guitar poets, he bore considerable renown for his mastery of Telecastery. His armory of techniques, while nearly always employed at the service of the tune, tended to transcend the more basic structures of the country or blues settings he favored and pointed to an avant-blues that he never properly explored. Still, to hear him in his element, fronting a sympathetic, capable band, singing his own songs as he does in this 1976 performance is to bear witness to a matchless talent, a humble innovator, and a hair-raising plectrist in full bloom.

Revolutionary Ensemble – *Beyond The Boundary Of Time*

(MUTABLE)

This aptly named band was one of the most distinctive, pioneering amalgams in the history of Creative Improvised Music. This 2005 concert recording from Warsaw brought together the violin/bass/drum. Majesty of Leroy Jenkins (whose noble nomenclature has been bastardized by a World Of Warcraft character) and Sirone and Jerome Cooper for the last time, as Mr. Jenkins passed away in 2007. Their instrumental and compositional palette was incredibly wide for such a diminutive formation. They were a chamber group who could swing and they were a jazz group that vigorously executed formal structures. Each member was not only a selfless ensemble player but had also developed very sophisticated solo music. All of this and more is featured in this remarkably moving album featuring compositions from each member, as well as more freely derived musical conclusions. They reunited in 2004 after a 27-year hiatus, and if anything, the vitality of the aggregation had grown more acute during those intervening years. While it is heart-breaking that there will probably be no more recordings and certainly no more performances, they have left behind a legacy of staggering ingenuity, of which this disc was merely the latest chapter.

JOSH P.

These are five independent record labels whose output I've found consistently interesting/excellent enough that I'll check out anything they put out.

Fonal

Finland is positively brimming over with amazing and idiosyncratic bands at the moment, and the cream of the crop are generally found on the Finnish label Fonal. From the inside-out psych/folk of Kemialliset Ystävät, to the Björk-meets-Jandek musings of Finn chanteuse Islaja, to the otherworldly pop transmissions of Paavoharju, it's a rare Fonal release that isn't eerily beautiful and unlike anything else you've ever heard (and nicely packaged, to boot).

Ipecac

If you know who Mike Patton and The Melvins are, chances are you already know how you feel about their general aesthetic (uncompromising, singular, not for the faint of heart, etc.). The other bands on their label, Ipecac (which Patton co-runs), generally share that aesthetic, as well as formidable chops, a penchant for minor keys, and a soft spot for metal, though they're more inclined to cherry-pick aspects of the genre (and for that matter, all genres) than just do it outright. If it comes out on Ipecac, somebody with pleeeeennty of other things to do thought it was worth their time.

Ektro

Like Fonal, Ektro is a Finnish label, and like Ipecac, its bands tend to cherry-pick aspects of metal with a healthy disdain for purity. But Ektro's got a flavor all its own, defined in large part by Finnish kraut/psych/metal/etc. stalwarts Circle, whose records make up the brunt of the label's discography. They've yet to put out an album nearly as transcendent as their live show, but frankly, just about no one has (their live show is pretty goddam transcendent). The records they do put out, however (by Circle, their various and many alter-egos, and such oh-really? bands as Quest For Blood, the only Japanese black-metal band fronted by a free-jazz flautist) are, at the very least, "interesting," often really good, and almost always rockin'.

Tumult

In a perfect world, every label would be like Tumult, an enterprise formed by a guy who loves music, wants certain records to exist, and then makes it happen with nary a regard to such bourgeois concepts as brand consistency or "the marketplace." Admittedly, their predilection for extreme noise and black metal make it difficult for a milquetoast like me to enjoy every last release, but some of them -- like the shambolic cosmic stoner-rock of Japan's Solar Anus, the stalactite ambience of Thuja, and the gloriously crushing art/metal of Harvey Milk — are fuckin' awesome. Tumult, for better or worse, is never the same old shit.

Young God

Founded almost 20 years ago by Swans mainman Michael Gira as an outlet for his work. Young God also focuses on (according to their website) "highly personalized and emphatically original non-genre-specific songwriting." Generally somewhere between folk and experimental, with innovatively layered arrangements, lyrics that have had some time spent on'em, and the best consistent cover-art aesthetic since the heyday of 4AD. Again, this doesn't mean that every last release is a hit, but if my experiences seeing Gira perform with the Swans and his excellent current project The Angels of Light are anything to go on, he's the real deal, straight up, and if he finds something "emphatically original," there's probably something to it.

Tip:
If you, like most people, think that this all sounds like a bunch of esoteric bullshit, check out Lyrics Born. That guy cranks out alternate-universe R&B radio pop hits like there's no tomorrow. Japanese eccentric Cornelius and and retro-soulman James Hunter are making some good pop records lately, too. And fans of melancholy (yet by no means maudlin) singer/songwriters should check out the Bill Fay album From The Bottom Of An Old Grandfather Clock. *As for up-and-comers, do yourself a favor and keep an eye out for the best live band of '08: the one-woman wunderkind, Tune-Yards.*

JULIAN

seasonal processor

Dr. Dog – *Fate* (PARK THE VAN)

Good "old-timey" sounding indie rock. Written and recorded by the band.

Audrey – *The Fierce and the Longing* (TENDERVERSION)

An all-girl band from Sweden, Audrey makes pleasant "post-rock" songs of the less epic variety (songs clock in at 3-5 minutes), with a cello rocking prominently amid the guitar.

Art Farmer – *Farmer's Market*

(PRESTIGE)

Art Farmer gives Miles Davis a run for his money in this outing. Hank Mobley on tenor sax, Horace Silver on piano, plus a drummer and bassist make for a satisfying hard bop record. Props to Shona for telling me about this record. By the way, go visit her in the jazz section for more recommendations and to learn about the Flumpet (flugelhorn + trumpet).

MC 900 Ft Jesus – *One Step Ahead of the Spider* (SONY)

Hauschka – *Ferndorf* (FATCAT RECORDS)

German pianist/composer who records/performs as Hauschka. I'm not quite sure how to describe this release, so I'll quote *Mojo* magazine: "*Ferndorf* is a sweet and spirited adventure in post-oral (pseudo) glitch that tracks back to Eric Satie and Ralph Vaughn Williams and is exquisitely suggestive of the rainy countryside where Hauschka grew up." A German magazine also compared him to French composer Yann Tiersen, most famous for the *Amélie* soundtrack.

Tip:
Bottom of the Hill is definitely the best place to see live Rock 'n' Roll in SF. There's an outdoor patio for fresh air, good food, tables, and comfy booths in the back.

MISS SWEENEY

I like music and weather together.

Demian – *Demian (reissue)*

(FALLOUT RECORDS)

Two lead guitars, three part vocal harmonies, Corpus Christi classic rock (previously played as Bubble Puppy) — Hells yeah! They hit me first with their "Gathering of Promises" then knocked me out with this stellar album of revved-up and reworked gem jams. Turn it up!

Tujiko Noriko – *Trust*

(KURAGE)

A few unique tracks, mostly bookended by remixes and re-imaginings. Worth it solely for track 4: a remix of "Saigo no Kiss" by Hideki Ataka that could double for an alternate *Twin Peaks* theme song. In a word: Breathtaking.

Bottle Rocket (Criterion) – Directed by Wes Anderson

Charming, clever, and hilarious. Plus, the climax of this film is punctuated by the utterance of an almost (almost) transparent Guns 'N Roses lyric.

Mishima: A Life in Four Chapters – Directed by Paul Schrader

Everything about this film haunts me. So much so that I cannot really think of anything to say about it that hasn't been said, or that I can say in just a few sentences. Biopics are funny little windows into

multiple worlds of interpretation; this film follows the model at least ten fold, begging the audience to question just how blurry the border between life and art is.

Ladies and Gentlemen, The Fabulous Stains – Directed by Lou Adler

This movie doesn't put out.

Kissa Rock - "Kaze wo Atsumete" – Various Artists (EMI)

'70s era "cafe rock" from Japan. A folk-rock collection of a somewhat Yacht Rock caliber, smooth as a perfectly poured espresso on a rainy Autumn afternoon. Includes the song by Happy End used in Sofia Coppola's *Lost in Translation*.

Tip:
Procure a copy of Veeps: Profiles In Insignificance by Bill Kelter and Wayne Shellabarger for your bathroom bookshelf. You'll thank me for it later; you're welcome!

LEAH B

"I love rocky road"

The Bug – *London Zoo* (NINJA TUNE)

Jimmy Radway & The Fe Me Time All Stars – *Dub I*

(PRESSURE SOUNDS)

Mi Ami – *Watersports* (QUARTERSTICK)

Wilderness – *(k)no(w)here*

(JAGJAGUAR)

Anthony Pappalardo + Nathan Nedorostek – *Radio Silence: A Selected Visual History of American Hardcore Music*

read this book

Wayne Shellabarger + Bill Kelter – *Veeps - Profiles In Significance*

read this book, too

Tip:
"Cool Down Your Temper" Last Thursday of every month, at Koko's Cocktails. Reggae music all night.

FOLKLORE,

FOLKLORE LEGEND, PARLIAMENT FOLKADELIC, TROUBLE FOLK, FOLKDOOBIEST, DE LA FOLK, THE INCREDIBLE FOLK, DR. FOLKENSTEIN, FOLKZILLA VS. MEGALORE, FOLKBUSTERS, FOLKFINGER, FOLKNIC '09, FOLKIGAWA NAKIMOTONOTSOSO-BERONTHESOLO

Vinyl Reanimator / Lexicontortionist... Opportunist.

DJ Revolution – *King of the Decks*

(DUCK DOWN)
Decade-plus "Wake Up Show" DJ deals a fresh hand with his aces sleeved on Boot Camp Clik label Duck Down — which is only coincidentally responsible for three of my five picks. "Deck" is stacked with a bevy of Revolution-produced spinners featuring appearances such as Sean Price, Tash, KRS-One, Guilty Simpson, Bishop Lamont, and a superlative compliment from DJ Premier...basically that Rev cuts like water chestnuts through a woodchipper, son. Bring your own soy sauce.

Special Teamz – *Stereotypez*

(DUCK DOWN)
Beantown power trio consisting of Edo G (formerly of Edo G & Da Bulldogs), Jaysaun (formerly of the Kreators), and Slaine (of La Coka Nostra) mashes out over bangers served up by DJ Premier, Pete Rock, Marco Polo, Jake One and others. Three distinct voices and styles are equally showcased throughout *Stereotypez*, which has more depth than the name alone implies. The title track addresses and refutes racial and cultural stereotypes, while "Race Riot" furthers the point with Edo, Jaysaun, and Slaine recounting their experiences growing up in a racially-segregated Boston (they are Black, Puerto Rican, and White, respectively). Cameos by Ill Bill, Sean Price, Buckshot, and Devin the Dude thicken the stew like cornstarch. Says Slaine, "Damn it Preemo, that's why my fam as we know, it's gully in the streets, yeah we keep it uglier than Janet Reno"...an impressive feat indeed.

John Robinson – *I Am Not For Sale* (FAT CITY RECORDINGS)

Scienz of Life and Sol Uprising emcee, Shaman Work co-proprietor, and general indie mainstay John Robinson delivers his straightforward not-for-sales pitch atop off-kilter knocks tendered by Flying Lotus, J.Rawls, R.Thentic, Jneiro Jarel, et al. Fat City Recordings also houses producer/emcee Wajeed of Platinum Pied Pipers...cop that shit like so many French crullers...or something.

Jake One – *White Van Music*

(RHYMESAYERS)
Seattle-bred sonic shot-caller Jake One has been furtively lacing everybody from G-Unit to Gift of Gab to De La Soul with impressive aural assists for seasons. He now lands on the roster that says rhymes to run drills on your earlobes with a team that suffers — or benefits — from dissociative identity disorder: M.O.P., Little Brother, Busta Rhymes, and Slug amongst others. You can decode Doom-isms, field idle threats, and find out how many of your favorite emcees are feeling Casual's shit — as they very well should — all on one shiny disc (if you hold it bottom-up toward a light source). A limited quantity of the album has been released with a bonus instrumental version at no additional cost to the customer which is worth seeking out (CD only).

Heltah Skeltah – *D.I.R.T.*

(DUCK DOWN)
Ruckus and Da Rockness Monsta (Sean Price, or Ruck, & Rock respectively) return to their classical fashion — bobbing and weaving furiously atop bits and pieces of Beethoven's "Fur Elise" on the Ill Mind-produced lead single "Everything Is Heltah Skeltah." Aside from suddenly wanting a "dose of fries," you may notice a slight change in frequency, both because of the industry's digital zeitgeist and the relative age of our two caped narrators. While *D.I.R.T.* notably lacks the macabre cohesion of *Nocturnal* — which only matters if yer head's up yer ass whilst yer ass is stuck in the '90s — the menacingly charming duo aptly demonstrate through mercilessly ignorant punchlines, hilarious studio outtakes, and one clever acronym why they are in fact Da Incredible Rap Team. The production contributed by Khrysis, Ill Mind, and Marco Polo further animates Ruck & Rock's shenanigans, who appear in high gloss dressed in full superhero regalia on the cover. "Got a mic and my a pimp cup, catch a right from the fist, chump / Leave a non-smoker chokin when lightin this bitch up..." Priceless.

Tip:
"Don't disturb the groove, lest ye incur a wound." - Me, I said that.

visit www.myspace.com/folklorelegend for further information regarding stuff.

HIP-HOP LOU

I don't only listen to Hip-Hop...but it would seem that way with my picks...I liked the Flying Lotus and the new Coldplay....also, I can't stop speakin in abreev's....a-ight....chill.

The Wire Season 5

I recommend seas 1-4 as well...amaze teev....

Q-Tip – *The Renaisance*

Tip fine comes back and deliv's a gem from start to end.

Raphael Saadiq – *The Way I See It*

The best soul alb o da ye...Saadiq channels Motown and regurg's it with a bit o' Bay Flav.

Bored Stiff – *The Sad Truth*

Legendar Bay crew is back, though not all membs return, the ess mains...

Kanye West – *808s + Heartbreak*

Not such a hot listen from start to end, but the hits are undeni...Ye' puts it all out there after losing his lady and his moms....

Large Professor – *Main Source*

Flyin below the rade, Extra P released *Main Source*, and blessed us wit what we always spected from him...top notch beats...and cool lyr to boot.

E-40 – *Ball Street Journal*

While most pref '06's Ghetto Report Card, *Ball St.* displ 40 at his Lyr best...one-liners for days....

DJ Muggs & Planet Asia – *Pain Language*

Asia's spit game shines ov Muggs' dark & drear tracks...

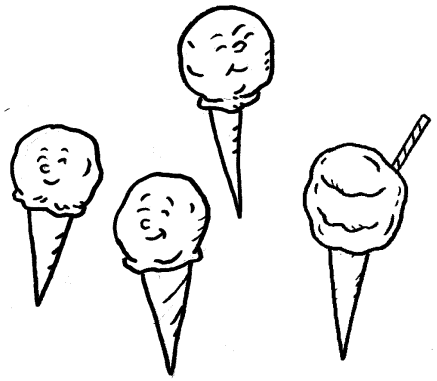
Mighty Underdogs – *Droppin' Science Fiction*

Lateef, Gab, and produce Headnotic collab to create their uniq blend of hip hop...plenty of supe guests add flav...

Planet B-Boy (DVD)

Planet B-Boy takes you behind the scenes following dancers from all ov the world as they prepare for the "Battle of the Year" . . . a comp consist of 18 countries . . . some of the most amaze moves, and intersting stories you'll ev see . . .

Tip:
I'm into sports and stats...and highly recommend a book called The Macrophenominal Pro Basketball Almanac *by the dudes at Freedarko.com . . . it has everything you may not have seen on SportsCenter.*



L. BRADY

American school children and all politicians should have to watch Foreign Exchange *on PBS, "Where America meets The World," for all of those issues that CNN ignores, FOX doesn't understand or is scared of, etc.*
No TV? Libraries will still have computers for another couple of years, bring earbuds: http://foreignexchange.tv/index.html -
The time to start the re-election campaign for Barack Obama is NOW.
The time to volunteer is NOW.

No New York – Various Artists

(LILITH)
4 Bands: D.N.A., Teenage Jesus & The Jerks, The Contortions, Mars: all brung together for this compilation and produced by none other than Mister Brian Eno. NO genre. If I came from outer space, Brian Eno is one of the first humans I would eat. See Also: Suicide . . . short, sporadic bursts of noisy nonsense that seem to not have come from anywhere, rooted in nothing at all, and goes nowhere at all in the end: it just suddenly ENDS.

Garbage Warrior – Directed by Oliver Hodge

Our typical houses are responsible for nearly half the CO2 emissions in many countries, and they've got all the choking building codes on their side, the neighborhood associations on their side. We need to remove the accepted term GARBAGE from our language. No more garbage. We ran out of room, we were on the wrong path. The planet dies partly for the consumerist want of "new granite counter tops in the kitchen, stainless steel appliances, new fixtures, minimum 1400 SF dwelling." If you Google Earthship — look beyond the long hair, if there is a dream-catcher/tie-dye that upsets your Lautner/Nouvel/Ando/ or even McMansion sensibilities, avert your eyes but not your mind, please. We must look beyond the differences and see our common solutions... we can implement much of this right where you are now, cause we can't all run off and live in the desert right? JUST ASK ED BEGLEY and please tell his wife Rachelle that her laughter really got me through the last few months. I love those two. And I think Tadao Ando could rock this design so hard you could have the modernist enclave waving at the curvaceous hippiesque one all friendly like! GARBAGE WARRIOR: we don't have to live like this anymore and we don't have to kill the planet to have a light-bulb glow. The future was years ago.

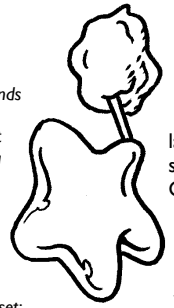
The Devil Came on Horseback – Directed by Ricki Stern/Anne Sundberg

Genocide, Darfur. Sri Lanka? Sudan? Democratic Republic of Congo? None can avert their eyes, not one of us, not one more day from now on. This documentary: Darfur. See for yourself, then know how much further it unravels in a single day. The times we have been living in: Bush invades a sovereign nation based on obvious lies and yet no one is willing to charge to the rescue of the victims in these genocides because we are supposed to respect that they are within the borders of a sovereign nation? We are living in maddening times and must seek ways to not feel as if we can do nothing as "one simple person" each. We must find ways. The ways are there. That much we must believe. Genocide Intervention Network. QUICK THOUGHT: In the mad shuffle to not lose your retirement funds — have you made sure it does no evil? In the end, thoughtful caution must outweigh such sudden fears: sudandivestment.org (with Calvert, no less) doing the eyeballs for you. They look out for the innocent on the ground — so it is based on specific companies not a blanket economic boycott, which leaves innocent people starving while the jerks at the top still party in gold.

The Films of Charles and Ray Eames (DVD)

They were just so busy; immense talent seemingly cannot rest. Many short films, just filled with wonder. You can treat yourself to the pretty, pretty box of six DVDs or you can hunt them down one at a time, either choice for you — seek and ye shall find. I possess no sense of whimsy & yet — against my wishes!!! — was taken utterly by *Toccata for Toy Trains*. Yikes! EAMES. I even like typing the name. As for ownership, I only have *Volume 2*, so if you see these others in the Amoeba bins, calls me up! Yeehaw. Also of note: their furniture, much of it made, what, five decades ago or more . . . ? The originals are holding up great when treated well and are still passed from loving hand to loving hand. This too, though beyond my wallet, is sustainability. If you can afford the initial investment!

Tip:
My water company — www.ebmud.com — sends me all of these items for FREE: kits to save up to 160 oz of water per toilet flush, stickers that say "Our community is in a drought... thank you for not wasting water." Low flow attachments for your shower head, your kitchen spigot and outside garden hose. Comics for the kids that explain that "it used to rain here," - and my fave: The low flow shower head with the OFF switch so when you're scrubbing your toes or letting your all-natural conditioner set: turn off the water flow until you are ready to rinse! Then the water flicks right back on - no long, wasteful warm up. Please contact your local water authority to see what they offer! Wherever you are . . .



MATT BLEYLE (NO RELATION)

I rung up Watt

The Subhumans (Canada) – *Death Was Too Kind*

(ALTERNATIVE TENTACLES)
I first heard the Canadian Subhumans the same way most people my age did — after accidentally downloading them off Napster (pre-9/11), mistaking them for the British band of the same name. Although there are many punk bands that glorify their marginalized status (Pariah, The Exploited, Oi Polloi, etc), The Subhumans (CAN) always stood out. *Death Was Too Kind* collects the early singles, the self titled EP, and two remixed tracks released previously on the long out of print *Pissed Off With Good Reason* comp. This record — now without all of the new wavey metallic glitches and etc — might sound a little stripped down to new millenium punx who first heard hits like "Slave To My Dick" on mom's iMac but I'm confident they will relearn to love it.

Black Rainbow – *Black Rainbow and We Radiate*

(THRILLHOUSE/LEFT OFF THE DIAL)
Two 7"s, one recording... lots of broke people working together to make the magic happen. Good late '80s/'90s East Bay/Mission St. punk.

Rudimentary Peni – *No More Pain* (SOUTHERN)

They're still good and Nick Blinko still draws the most intense cover art I've ever seen. This is relentless. Honestly, the placement of Pachelbel's Canon in "E" at the end of the album is fitting. Every song is no bullshit, yet not exactly topical or determinate. A pretty good formula (or lack thereof) relying heavily on delivery.

The Ovens – *???* (AQUARIUS)

Keep an eye out for this. They are the spokesmen of a generation (which might not be a compliment to either party involved). A pop band (a la Fastbacks, Weezer, Bach) that has the attention span of the Minutemen without sounding like GBV...

Ahousen – *Ahousen* (PSF)

Although this came out a while ago, it's still worth mentioning. Sounds like the Soft Machine being assassinated while playing live (apparently at a place called the Penguin House)... the 28 minute "Ophelia" would probably be the post mortem track.

Let The Right One In – Directed by Tomas Alfredson

Preserve this incredible story as told through the lens of the Swedes before it is destroyed in the remake directed by Matt Reeves (*Cloverfield*).

Tip:
If you believe in yourself, eat all your school, stay in milk, drink your teeth, don't do sleep, and get 8 hours of drugs you can get work.

MICHELLE

Fennesz – *Black Sea* (TOUCH MUSIC)

Dryer/Huele/Lindsay – *Idea of West* (CREATIVE SOURCES)

Wild Combination: A Portrait of Arthur Russell – Directed by Matt Wolf

Heima : a film by Sigur Rós
(SIGUR RÓS/ XL RECORDINGS LTD.)

***Eccentric Soul: The Outskirts of Deep City* - Various Artists**
(NUMERO GROUP)

LIEBCHEN

Dog treats give me gas.

Vetiver – *Tight Knit* (SUB POP)

Asobi Seksu – *Hush*
(POLYVINYL / ONE LITTLE INDIAN / RESERVOIR)

John Zorn – *Filmworks XXIII: El General* (TZADIK)

Lafayette Afro Rock Band – *Darkest Light: The Best of Lafayette Afro Rock Band* (STRUT)

I Heart Lung – *Interoceans*
(ASTHMATIC KITTY RECORDS)

Phosphorescent – *To Willie*
(DEAD OCEANS)

The Pains of Being Pure at Heart – *The Pains of Being Pure at Heart* (SLUMBERLAND)

The Tones – *Dreamtalk* (PLUG LABEL)

The Bee Gees – *Odessa*
(POLYDOR / RHINO)

The Grouch & Eligh – *Say G&E!*
(LEGENDARY MUSIC)

School of Seven Bells – *Alpinisms*
(GHOSTLY INT. / FULL TIME HOBBY)

Sleepy Sun – *Embrace*
(SOL DIAMOND / ATP RECORDINGS)

DD/MM/YYYY – *Black Square*
(WE ARE BUSY BODIES / DELETED ART)

Alaska in Winter – *Holiday*
(MILAN RECORDS)

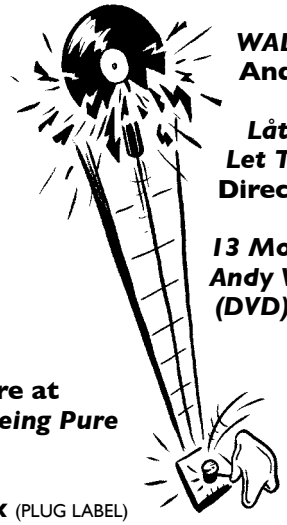
***Roman Polanski: Wanted and Desired* – Directed by Marina Zenovich**

***Frozen River* – Directed by Courtney Hunt**

***Dear Zachary: A Letter to a Son About His Father* – Directed by Kurt Kuenne**

***Summer Heights High: Season 1* – Featuring Chris Lilly**

***Dario Argento's Four Flies on Grey Velvet* – Directed by Dario Argento**



***WALL•E* – Directed by Andrew Stanton**

***Låt den rätte komma in / Let The Right One In* – Directed by Tomas Alfredson**

13 Most Beautiful... Songs for Andy Warhol's Screen Tests (DVD) (PLEXIFILM)

NICK P.

The Hospitals – *Hairdryer Peace*

***Shadow Music of Thailand* – Various Artists** (SUBLIME FREQUENCIES)

Times New Viking – *Rip It Off*
(MATADOR)

Rick Ross – *Trilla* (DEF JAM)

***Cazumbi - African 60's Garage Vol. 1* – Various Artists**
(NOSMOKERECORDS)

MR. MUDDBIRD (NOD FACTOR CREW)

Okeechobee swamp boy turned 209 Mudvillain turned SF city cyclin' deejay waxaholic!

Mayer Hawthorne & The County – *Just Ain't Gonna Work Out*
(STONES THROW)
I know it's pointless to suggest an item that may no longer be available, but I just can't help myself . . . A novelty item of undeniable appeal! Who could resist this record? With it's semi-compact, crimson transparency, HEART-SHAPE! You put this record on and get lifted away by this modern recording which emulates a classic, late '60s soul joint, complete with that buttery analog sound... If it's humorous (break-up song) lyics don't get you, the nostalgic falsetto harmonies will!

The Long Lost – *Woebegone*
(NINJA TUNE)
Mysterious 12" single... The Long Lost is actually a duo of LA-based producer Daedelus and his wife Laura Darlington. The original recording is a somber folk ballad which is really lovely... However, throw in two remixes by the infamous FLYING LOTUS and you get overwhelming, melancholy bounce... Pure awesomeness!!!

The Pharcyde – *Runnin' (Phillippians RMX)/4 Better Or 4 Worse (DJ Nu-Mark RMX)* (DELICIOUS VINYL)
Two of the best remixes I've ever heard... Seriously. The first is a remix of "Runnin," a classic Jay Dee (aka J-Dilla) production, which stays true to the original bossa nova sample but gets an updated treatment of glitched-out drum punchiness! Nu-Mark gives his remix of "4 Better Or 4 Worse" a completely new beat. Dare I say it surpasses the original? I do! (Hear it for yourself.)

Blu & Mainframe – *Johnson & Jonson* (TRES)
My pick for BEST HIP-HOP ALBUM OF THE YEAR!!! A big claim? Yes, but well warranted and well deserved. Mainframe kills the beats... Blu kills the rhymes... (nuff said).

Madlib – *Beat Konducta Vol. 5-6 A tribute to...* (STONES THROW)
A compilation of the latest two *Beat Konducta* LPs, which were subtitled "The Dil Cosby Suite" & "The Dil Withers Suite." So perhaps from that you can discern who exactly this collection of beats pays tibute to? None other than the late, great J-Dilla. Any admirers of either of these cats will undoubtedly be geeked!

Harmonic 313 – *When Machines Exceed Human Intelligence* (WARP)
This release compiles material previously released on two seperate, vinyl-only EPs. Electronic producer Mark Pritchard, under the pseudonymn Harmonic 313, drops instrumental heaterz with a couple vocal collaborations... Phat Kat & Elzhi (of Slum Village) from Detroit get busy on the banger "Battlestar," and Steve Spacek lends his voice on "Falling Away." Pretty cool stuff.

***Tekkonkinkreet* – Directed by Michael Arias**
This has to be one of my favorites animated films of all time. The cover is deceptively cute... However, this tale is far from wholesome. It's more so a psychological drama concerning two young brothers on the streets an anonymous spread of urban Japan who lose themselves amidst being swept away in a world of territorial rivalries of both familiar and strange origins . . . A beautiful piece of work.

***Kung Fu Panda* – Directed by John Stevenson & Mark Osborne**
"LLLLEGEND tells of a LLLLEGENDARY warrior, whose skills were the stuff of LLLLLLLEGEND!" C'mon, man... You gotta admit this movie's fun. Full of entertaining action sequences and ridiculous lines you'll have difficulty abstaining from everyday speech... Makes me wanna eat noodles whenever I watch it. Pure awesomeness, homie... (Louie-Lou feels me).

Tip:
Check out the NOD FACTOR every Tuesday @ the Cellar (685 Sutter, Downtown SF) for your weekly fix of classic & below-radar Hip-Hop, Soul, Electronic beats & other funky obscurities (Myspace.com/nodfactorSF). Keep diggin'...

RACHEL WALTHER

Video Rachel!

Klaus Schulze & Lisa Gerrard – *Farscape* (SPV RECORDINGS)
The man of Tangerine Dream (and that means the wonderful *Thief* soundtrack!) gives us the audio equivalent of a creamsicle on a hot summer day at the beach (which is pretty freakin soothing). Electric soundscapes mixed with Lisa Gerrad's alien/operatic vocals transport you into a luxurious tunnel: you're moving fast, but someone else is driving — so you can sit back and relax.

Boom Bip & Doseone – *Circle*

(MUSH)

Celebrating the tenth (or eleventh, upon printing) anniversary of this great great album, one that I've enjoyed for all ten years on a monthly basis. If you enjoy either artist's other endeavors (say that five times fast) you owe it to yourself to give a listen.

Heartbeat Detector – Directed by Nicolas Klotz

The only movie I've seen that can safely be called a "Corporate Holocaust thriller." If Kafka'd written on a laptop, he might've dreamed up something like this. America's favorite European import Mathieu Amalric (*Diving Bell and the Butterfly, Christmas Tale, Quantum of Solace*) stars in this French film (original title *La Question humaine*) as a suit and tie cog elected to dig into his company's past, finding (as one might guess) more than he bargained for. Powerful, surprising, alarming, and anything but preachy...truly original! Warning: the ending is not for the faint of heart (no pun intended).

Ken Russell at the BBC 1962-1965 – Directed by Ken Russell

If you like the idea of Ken Russell, but find that his most of his movies are a bit too wacky, frivolous, or just plain cray-zee, then you may enjoy this set which includes the best of what he produced for the BBC before delving into features. These short biopics (usually 70 minutes) about artists and performers (such as pre-Raphaelite painter Dante Rosetti and dancer Isadora Duncan) have all the earmarks of why we like him: innovative visuals, explosive emotions, and Oliver Reed. However, since they were produced quickly for television, Russell can never afford to go too far — creating taut stories that are often more coherent than his later films.

Saxondale – Complete Seasons 1 & 2

Steve Coogan stole my heart as loutish radio personality Alan Partridge in the BBC series *I'm Alan Partridge* (also highly recommended), and as Tommy Saxondale, retired rock roadie turned suburban exterminator, he's still terrific. Great British satire that's innovative rather than malicious, and every episode is heartwarming in a way that doesn't make you sick.

Tip:
Illinois native Daniel Knox's dark tenor and piano are: www.danielknox.com

RANT!

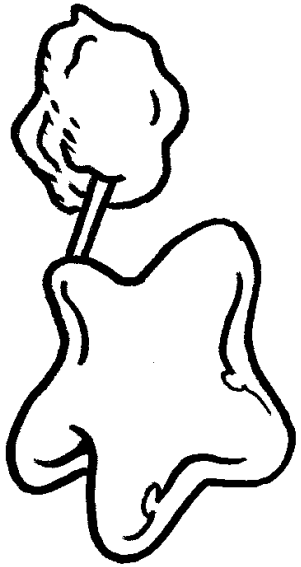
...I'm the richest man in the world...
Even though I'm broke.

Over the Edge – Directed by Jonathan Kaplan

Out of all the teen rebellion films from the '70s (or in general for that fact), this film does it for me, hands down!! This film spoke volumes to me as a kid in the '70s, which actually wasn't hard because teenage angst was never really portrayed with much of any real reality . . . at least in kids' eyes back then. every generation has a voice & they want that voice heard . . . when it's not heard, juvenile hell breaks loose, as in this controversial cult classic that was the talk of every school & town when it came out (most especially mine when i was living in Ohio) — so controversial in fact, that it had a limited run in theatres & drive-ins . . . but was preserved on cable tv with numerous runs on HBO & Cinemax throughout the '80s to solidify it's cultish infection with the youths of the eras. this very fine piece of cinema reveals a problem that still plagues our society to this very day: The "invisible" (and troubled) youth and the price we all pay for it. Culled from a series of actual events that happened in Foster City, California in the early '70s. The story centers on a handful of kids living in a rural suburb named New Granada. The main character, Carl Willard, has been trying to adjust to New Granada ever since his father moved there, much to no avail. Carl's best friend is Ritchie White (played by Matt Dillon in his debut role) the town rebel. To sum up Ritchie, I'll give you a quote from the kid himself in the film: ". . . I'm an outlaw jack!! Them cops wanna' deal with me, they BEST do it on the street." Ritchie's one of them kids we've all came across sometime or another in our youth that you just gravitated to: the cool bad kid...even though you KNOW the boy's no damn good!...but it's the bad boys everyone wants to be around (it seems). The only place these kids have to hang-out/play is at a local recreation center (remember those, folks?), which makes them an all-too-easy target for New Granada's pesky police officers. Particularly, Officer Doberman (intresting name, eh?), who seems to be on a tireless crusade busting kids left & right & have them spend some time up "on the hill" (i.e. reform school) if need be. The adults are at wits end & the kids are getting restless and it all culminates into one big explosion. Carl develops a crush on a new girl in town, Cory. She's a spacey, "out there" sort of girl, trying to find her way as well as her voice. Yet, like Carl, she falls in with the wrong crowd. A series of events happen, mostly drinkin', druggin', getting into mischief and eventually getting busted by Doberman. But after Carl and Ritchie's botched "meeting" with the Peppermint Patty-esque local drug dealer at school, Tip, Carl convinces Ritchie to leave New Granada and that's when the REAL drama begins!! Things happen: Carl's on the lamb, his crush on Cory blossoms into a full love relation (kinda' in that "Jack and Diane"/"Don't Stop Believing"-sort of vibe) and the school grounds turn into battlegrounds. A kick-ass soundtrack and a film of "hell yeah!!!" proportions! Ooh child, things are gonna' get easier . . . We hope.

The Foot Fist Way – Directed by Jody Hill

If you were a kid growing up in the '70s, then you already know how popular martial arts were and the only thing cooler than watching martial arts was actually knowing how to do the moves. So, a plethora of martial arts schools flourished at that time. I personally wanted to learn Kung-Fu, as I've always liked the fluent nature of the art, so, in 1979 my mum took me to a guy who taught Tae Kwon Do. How he hooked her (and myself) in was that he also taught "some Kung-Fu", that was all she wrote!! Signed me up, got my gi (martial arts uniform), my white belt and off I went to learn. As far as the "some Kung-Fu," this guy only taught me some flimsy "crane style" that was pure crap! I never forgot that experience and the people I met and trained with during that experience. This is why *The Foot Fist Way* rings the humorous reality that it portrays . . . yeah, these type of people actually exist. 4th degree black belt Fred Simmons (played by Danny McBride), a living swagger of exaggerated confidence - runs a Tae Kwon Do studio in a strip mall in Concord, North Carolina. This studio is his life, his love and if he can have it his way, his legacy. So he's the literal king of his castle there. The immediate first impression one would have of Fred is that he's a macho douchebag so full of himself that he probably wakes up & kisses his hand after the morning yawn, but there's alot more to Fred than what we first see. The film breaks-down segments by using The Tenets Of Tae Kwon Do: Courtesy, Self Control, Perseverance, Integrity, Indomitable Spirit. We eventually learn that we're actually seeing each character's growth and change with each Tenet. Suzy, Fred's longtime sass-talking wife, rocks Fred overconfident world when she admits she had an affair with her boss (the camera "knock" during that segment was an added nice touch). It is from there that we see Fred go through the motions that weaken his spirit, thus his "power" and eventually changes him...or does it? Fred's wife weaves in-&-out of his life, thus letting us know what kind of woman she REALLY is. Outside of Fred, two of his students are focused on from time-to-time: Julio, a loveable co-instructor-in-training that has to endure all of Fred's commands and "pissy-fits," and Henry, a meek kid who's the constant punching bag of fellow student (and bully), Rick (speaking of Rick, his extremely brief bout with elderly student Marge is hilariously & unshamefully memorable). When Fred's best friend (and 5th degree black belt), Mike McCallister (played by director Jody Hill) enters the picture, things get even wilder and better. Mike, an enigma of a zoned-out warrior-for-hire, had me laughing for the short period he was in the film. One small scene that stood out was when he presented Fred with a CD copy of his band, Sexual Warriors, a somewhat gothic/noise band that blows Fred away. Fred's hero and sole idol is movie star Chuck "The Truck" Wallace, star of the *7 Rings Of Pain* trilogy. Chuck is probably the biggest douche out of everyone in the film...'nuff said, 'cause I don't wanna spill ALL the beans as to why he is such a douchegod. The way the film flows gives a *Spinal Tap*-like vibe to it (the dated look of the film stock they used makes me sort of think that this could even be a period piece, say...from the '80s perhaps?) and the humor comes naturally to McBride, as he plays Fred to the hilt. Everyone in the film actually knows Tae Kwon Do and the procedures they do in the studio/dojo are real, I say this from experience, which only adds to the authenticity of the subject matter. This is actually a feel good film, with some laughably warped parts to it. Kinda this year's *Bad News Bears* in a way. By the end you'll KNOW who's "The King Of the Demo," my friend.....KYUNGNEH!!!



The Super Inframan – Directed by Shan Hua

Out of the immense filmography the legendary Chinese Kung Fu film company, Shaw Brothers, *The Super Inframan* has GOT to be at the top (or next to the top) of their list of martial art oddities. This one's for all those patrons who fanatically shop at Kid Robot, Giant Robot and stores of the like, as well as those who are just into the monster suitmation films/shows of the era. If you don't know about this film, then you're in the "Phantom Zone," as far as i'm concerned, because this is essential viewing for fans of anything even remotely similar to this. Strange and unexplained disasters are happening on Earth and it turns out to be the sinister doings of the evil 10 million year old Dragon Princess. Her goal is to own the Earth and make all of its citizens her slaves. The Princess summons numerous creatures/mutants to aid her in her destructive goal, all of which have the ability to grow to gigantic size and do equally gigantic trouble/destruction. Rayma, a member of a special forces team, is offered to be a part of a bizarre project that would turn him into a superbeing with special powers called Inframan and stop the evil Princess. What follows is a mixture of martial arts, sci-fi and monster mayhem of the highest cheesy order — but works great in such a film as this. Power Rangers be damned!! Anyone who was into *Mighty Morphin Power Rangers* will be fully, grade A retarded with this film!! This predates ALL that stuff, and while we're at it, check out *Ultraman, Spectreman, The Space Giants,* and the ultra-rare japanese *Spider-Man* show: Yep, you heard right, kids, in 1978/79 there was a *Spider-Man* show in Japan that was S-I-C-K!!!! Track it down and check it out. If you dig all the mesuggahness that goes on in this film, which was actually normal for a lot of Japanese superhero shows of the early/mid '70s. Lots of somersaults, lots of jumpin' around, lots of explosions — a whole lot of escapist fun to be had for anyone who maintains the kid inside of them. I also recommend checking out the original, undubbed version of this film...more to be had here. A wild ride of a film.

The Cruise – Directed by Bennett Miller

I'm a New York guy (Brooklyn and The Village to be exact). New York City abounds with intrestingly twisted spirits and enigmas alike that seem to co-relate in double harmony. Timothy "Speed" Levitch I would consider as both a beautifully twisted spirit and loveable enigma all rolled-up in one. Tim likes to cruise New York and loves to show the wonders of what the city has to offer both in history and beauty. Really, what this film's about is beauty, growth, understanding and poetry. Levitch is the star & New York is the muse — or is it the other way around? The camera angles, coupled with the grainy black and white film stock and Levitch's stream-of-conciousness poetic rantings really brings out the striking gritty and fluent artistry that is New York, a most lovely city. Levitch struggles daily with his job at Grey Line Tours, as he's feeling their corporate anti-cruise noose tightening around his pro-cruising neck. He's in a constant cruise of the city — but it is really of self-understanding. Richard Linklater was so moved and inspired by Levitch after watching this film that he made his cult hit, *Waking Life*, which Levitch was also in. When Timothy explains the terracotta of a building, he exudes so much passion in his description one feels his kindred connection to the city...apart from laughing a little bit at his physical expression. The most intense (& humorous) sequence in the film is when Levitch airs out some personal laundry on the Brooklyn Bridge. When he speaks about his trials with his mother, he speaks with a magma-tipped tongue!! We really see the rage that seethes within him...as well as the love. The viewer actually learns a lot about New York from this film. It is very intresting knowing the people who've passed through this great city over the decades/centuries. Levitch has a brain the size of the city to memorize as much has he has about it. I've had the surprise and pleasure of actually meeting Timothy at, of all places, the Pee Wee Herman in-store here last year. He was with his girlfriend (yes! he has a girlfriend) and was a very charming man (put on a Smiths album, folks). Really great film about a great person in a great city.

The D.L. Chronicles: The Complete First Season – Directed by Quincy Le Near & Deondray Gossett

Ever since J.L King released the highly controversial, tell-all book *On the Down Low* back in 2004, exposing the age-old practice of black men having sex with men while trying to pass as straight in daily life, the term "D.L." has surfaced as a new slanguage in American diction. Honestly, gay education in the black community is nil — couple that with SERIOUS religious overtones that we're brought-up with since birth & you have what you have today. . . a whole helluvalot of confusion in our society about homosexuality/bi-sexuality. This series on the gay exclusive cable network, Here!, explores this subject more visually & slightly more dynamically with four fictionalized men & their bouts with their conflicted lifestyles, all narrated by a journalist examining the issue-at-hand. ALL D.L. men live with secrets . . . secrets that they don't really want to keep, they would much rather come out & live the life they were truly meant to live, but in this society — & ESPECIALLY the black community — they live under a "don't ask, don't tell" policy. the first reviewed is Wes Thomas — a banker whose wife's troublesome & wisecracking brother, Trent, is staying at their house until he can find a job & get back on his feet. Wes has some issues with Trent . . . but Trent's cruising eye is focused on Wes pretty intensely. One night, Wes has an argument with his wife, then storms off to get drunk in his studio & that provides the perfect opportunity for Trent to express his feelings for Wes. Yes, things happen & now Wes learns new things about himself — but also panics wondering if his wife will find out about what happened. next is Robert Hall — a talent agent who's taking care of his teenage daughter, Rhonda, but slowly begins to build a romantic relationship with Austin, who manages a health supplement store with his HIGHLY annoying employee. Robert trys to keep his relationship a secret from Rhonda, until she by-chance catches them kissing — that's when things get difficult, as the relationship is severely strained by Rhonda trying to find out the truth about her dad. "Boo" — THIS one, to me, was the most hard-hitting of all of them . . . & the most true-to-form as to the reality of all this. Boo is a thuggish brotha' from the hood who runs around having sex with men(on the D.L., of course) & women while posing a front like he's the "alphamale player", but secretly struggles with his sexuality & lifestyle. Jessie Washington — the neighborhood "fag" — is the only person in the story not afraid to be himself (& there's a Jessie Washington in EVERY hood!! whether you wish to believe it or not) . . . but it's definitely not easy being black AND gay in the hood (. . . & out the hood) . . . hence, the hardships of Boo & all men who walk the shadowy path of being d.l.. Boo's constantly arguing with his triflin' girlfriend, Kiesha, who, in turn, kicks him out her apartment — forcing him to live with his mother . . . who matter-of-factly can't understand why homosexuals act the way they do . . . yet, another weight in Boo's conflicted life. Many people have dirt under their nails in this, but when Boo learns a shocking fact about someone, it breaks him down & wakes him up...or does it? the only thing i have to say to Boo & just about everyone in there(outside of Jessie) is: www.gmhc.org . . . 'nuff said. what price "keepin' it real?" Last is Mark Watts, who's just coming out with his partner Dontay — & all goes seemingly well . . . until Mark's "favorite cousin," the homophobic Turrell suddenly shows-up on their front door, fresh from getting kicked out of his girl's crib in L.A. & needs a place to crash while he tries to find a job. Mark reluctantly agrees to let Turrell stay — but doesn't want him to know Dontay & himself are a gay couple . . . or gay, period, so he somehow convinces Dontay to play straight until Turrell leaves . . . which doesn't sit well with Dontay, understandably. As the days go by, Turrell's spastic, anti-gay nature strains the relationship to the point of detriment . . . but there's a surprise to be had by all in the end. I have to give righteous kudos' to my fellow black queen, Donnell (Jazz/House Music blacktress at the store) for hippin' me to this series. I hope to see more films & shows pertaining to subjects like this, as we all need to educate ourselves on ourselves & each other, 'cause all of us got a stinkrose in our garden . . . ooooooohhhkkkkkkaaaaaaaaayyyyyyyyyyyy.

Tip:

. . . Did I ever tell you the time I had pizza & a Slurpee with Sun Ra & Evel Knievel while collaborating on a painting with Jean-Michel Basquiat right after I was a road manager for Kraftwerk? . . . NO? . . . Well then remind me to tell you sometime . . . Pretty intresting story.

ROBERT EDWIN HAINES

Shameless flirt,charming asshole & sarcastic shit talker extraordinaire. It's not "just music" to me. It's all i've got.

Total Abuse – *Total Abuse LP*

(DERANGED RECORDS)

A 28 minute musical nightmare from these Austin, TX hardcore degenerates. An astonishing and disturbing debut album brimming with nihilism and fury. After a four minute atonal noise intro the unhinged home invasion rampage "I Can See In The Dark" sets the table for 12 songs about the awful things people do to each other and to themselves. The occasional sludge jam ("Secrets," "Banned In Austin" and the brutally corrosive "Disease") mixed with some of the most intense breakneck hardcore in recent memory (such cheery singalongs as "Fucked And Injured," "Scarred" and "The Same Mistake Since Birth"). The album crashes to its conclusion with the horrifying abduction scenario jam "Electrical Tape." The CD version also includes the 2007 masterpiece SEX PIG 7" and their original 2006 demo. You'll need therapy, a shower and maybe a colonic when yer done listening.

Chungking Express [Blu-Ray] – Directed by Wong Kar-Wai

This 1994 Hong Kong masterpiece is the film that put Wong Kar-Wai on the radar of international cinephiles. Just in time for the New Dark Ages comes this fantastic Blu-Ray deluxe version from the venerable folks at the Criterion Collection. A dizzying blend of the techniques usually utilized in

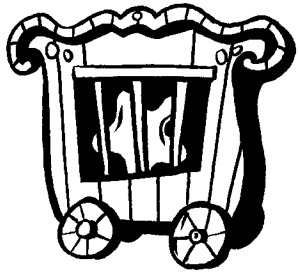
Hong Kong action films with what are, at heart, two interweaved love stories. Great performances from Brigitte Lin, Takeshi Kaneshiro, Tony Leung and the screen debut of the adorable pop-star Faye Wong highlight this whirlwind mosaic of violence, loneliness, romance and longing.

Sex Vid – *Communal Living*
(DOM AMERICA)
After unleashing three nosebleed inducing super-limited 7" singles and some even more obscenely rare tapes, these Olympia,WA shit disturbers deliver an eight song 14 minute 12" EP that continues the brutal maelstrom of hardcore they honed on the excellent *NESTS* 7" and *TANIA* 7" from a couple years back. One of the few modern punk bands who can incorporate feedback a la the mighty D.C. legends Void while still bringing the neck breaking hardcore reminiscent of the brilliant Deep Wound, Jerry's Kids and SS Decontrol. Passionate, harrowing and essential.

The Fresh & Onlys – *The Fresh & Onlys* (CHUFFED)
Ya know all those great undiscovered bands on those killer Messthetics comps? Well imagine if they were informed by doo-wop and girl group jams, had an understanding of the solid song structure of rocksteady and were steeped in the best qualities of mid-'90s boozy lo-fi (92-95 GBV, Strapping Fieldhands and Thomas Jefferson Slave Apartments). Well yer almost there. Kinda like the musical equivalent of a stew you keep adding things to and reducing down to get to something essential that is more than the sum of its parts. Consider it "makes you clean yer plate" jams.

Neil Young – *Sugar Mountain: Live At Canterbury House 1968*
(REPRISE)
Fresh from extricating himself from Buffalo Springfield baby Neil had just released his debut solo album and here at the college ministry at the University of Michigan, he delivers tremulous versions of Springfield tunes and new solo jams. Goofy and obviously stoned raps between songs and the uncertainty and vulnerability in this early performance add to it's charm. It's interesting to compare this to the already released 1971 Massey Hall Toronto solo performance and to see how in 3 short years he went from a timid performer to one of absolute assurance and command. A beautiful "Nowadays Clancy Can't Even Sing" (a Neil song that the Springfield didn't even let Neil sing in its studio incarnation because they said his voice wasn't good enough) and a heartbreaking "The Old Laughing Lady" highlight this early look at the only singer/songwriter who can come close to being included in the conversation with Bob Dylan.

Tip: *I miss the fuck out of Mark Weagant, Ken "Spiderman" Hamilton & Anthony Marin.*



ROBERTO'S OFF THE TOP SELECTS (ALL AVAILABLE ON VINYL!)

Is the best music we will ever hear all behind us?

EPMD – *We Mean Business*
(EP RECORDS)
Yeah they do! I been asking around and a lot of people didn't even know this was out. Is it lack of airplay and promotion, or are folks not checkin' this classic duo anymore? Whatever the reason, here is a solid example of the some of the Golden Era's finest still making noise.

Estelle – *Shine* (ATLANTIC)
This is a great summertime at Mission Rock, dancing outside with ur lady or man, spreading the love, good vibe for all, wonderlific type joint. Look at it this way: a lot of people know the single "American Boy" with Kanye, which isn't even one of the better tracks on here! If you liked that, chances are you'll love the whole album.

Lalo Schifrin – *Enter The Dragon* (soundtrack) (WARNER BROTHERS)
The hard to get LP is back! Lots of funky mood music from the classic film.

Large Professor – *Main Source*
(GOLD DUST MEDIA)

Q-Tip – *The Renaissance*
(UNIVERSAL MOTOWN)
It's hard to live up to the stuff Tip put out as a part of Tribe. When you've been at the top of the hill, the only way to go is down right? While it's definitely not a reunion record for the group, there are successful guest appearances galore, including Raphael Saadiq, Norah Jones, D'Angelo (What?!), and production by the late J Dilla. Besides these greats, Tip is pretty much on his own again after a long, long hiatus. He rhymes, sings, and produces on this record... and overall it's not too bad. In fact, it's the vitamin deficiency supplement a lot of us have been waiting for.

Tip:
Every 4th Saturday of the month, after shopping at the Haight street store, head on over to the Milk DJ BAR / Lounge (across the street) and get down to musical treats provided by the local and world renown TRIPLE THREAT DJs at their monthly event, Flava Of The Month. 21+

Also, be on the lookout for a new project from the Bay Area's own beat banger BOBIWAN, a Hip Hop based EP entitled Atack Da Clonez. Obrigado!

RYAN

Counsel in-kind to lead operations director of the department of cardboard cutting

Burnt Friedman & Jaki Liebezeit – *Secret Rhythms 3* (NONPLACE)

Hector Zazou – *In the House of Mirrors* (CRAMMED)

Bernard Herrmann – *Aldous Huxley's Brave New World*
(EL RECORDS)

Vincent Price – *Master Of The Macabre* (EL RECORDS)

Iceberg Slim – *Reflections*
(UPROAR RECORDS)

Levitts – *We are The Levitts* (ESP)

SAMMY WINSTON

Curmudgeon at large.

Trash Talk – *Trash Talk*
(TRASH TRASK COLLECTIVE)
This Sacto band has been around for years, but this self-released, self-titled LP, recorded by Steve Albini, is their masterpiece. Pure claustrophobic hatecore. All ragged knuckles and jagged teeth. It is an iron shield against the inhumanity of the world. If it counts for anything, I listened to this record everyday while I walked to work during the holidays. Take Born Against, speed it up, slap it around a bit, and substitute the politics with absolute derision, and you've got this record.

Sabertooth Zombie – *Everything*
(12 GAUGE)
Too many releases to pick just one. Imagine early Metallica doing Black Flag covers in the parking lot of a Parliament Funkadelic show and you may have the slightest idea of this band's essence. They have gathered the sounds of every band to call Norcal home, from CCR to Blatz to Exodus, and have created a most perfect hardcore cacophony. No other band has so diligently bore the burden of punk rawkish progression as the Zombie.

Ceremony – *Still Nothing Moves You* (BRIDGE 9)
Have you ever been a teenager walking home from a woeful day at a cut-rate public high school on an overcast afternoon with nothing more on your mind than seeing the next morning come without dragging a blade across your throat because you are ugly and your parents are monsters and nobody wants to hang out with you? This album is the soundtrack to that disposition. These are the jams of a wretched adolescence.

Never Healed – *Discography*
(STRENGTH BY STRENGTH)
This band is an unappreciated gem in the murky waters of Norcal hardcore. Take the mammoth bombast of Neurosis and slather it with the caustic chemicals of Die Kreuzen and then nestle the whole thing into the rotten cradle of the East Bay's darker punk rock and you will have this band in a nutshell. A really fucked up nutshell.

Don't Trip – *The Root Of All Evil*
(SELF-RELEASED)
A new band on the scene, rising from the foggy depths of the Peninsula, that combines '80s East Coast greats like Token Entry and Leeway with newer Bay Area bands like Lights Out and Nerve Agents. They are good now, as this release proves, but greatness is just around the corner. One to watch, for sure.

Skin Like Iron – *Skin Like Iron*
(HUMAN WATERFALL RECORDS)
A rogue wave of dissonant noise. Dark as hell itself, this band combines the brooding contempt of Deadguy with the dystopian abandon of Leviathan, and when spiced with a dash of the static, lyrical depression of Joy Division, the results are overwhelming. Their releases and appearances are fleeting and mysterious, so you will have to dig deep into the foul soil to find this treasure. But find it. For your own good, find it.

Lifelong Tragedy – *Runaways*
(DEATHWISH)
This is a rare thing. The anthemic hardcore of Sick Of It All with the slit-wrist desperation of American Nightmare. This great band broke up this year, but this album is a wonderful testament to their honest depiction of suburban wasteland angst. All the great parts of hardcore boiled down into a single, potent, and disturbing spirit.

SCOTT

Scott Joseph Walker, MD, PHD,

***Mad Men - Season One* – Created by Matthew Weiner**
There is a reason everyone is talking about this show. There is a reason everyone should watch this series. The attention to detail is exhaustive. Each character and episode is well-written, acted, and costumed. Eyes candy with plenty of healthy, good old-fashioned nostalgia for almost any age. AMC delivers and HBO-esque low story arc, with an ensamble cast that has few (if any) weak links. The commentaries are insightfull (in many cases two per show) and warrent repeated viewings. *Season Two* is cut from the same cloth.

***Roman Polanski: Wanted and Desired* – Directed by Marina Zenovich**
Roman Polanski doc, *Wanted and Desired*. Copious quality archive '70s footage & current interviews pull together this brutal portrait of a crazy genius. Good commentaries. Nice extras. Worth the $20.

***Wild Combination: A Portrait of Arthur Russell* – Directed by Matt Wolf** (PLEXIFILM)
An amazing portrait of a good Iowa kid rubbing shoulders with Philip Glass and Sonic Youth, then becoming mr. cocaine disco kid in the '80s. His parents and lover bookend this brilliant documentary with good performance footage. Listen to the cassette he sent his parents from here in S.F. in the '70s on bonus features.

The Rockford Files: Season Six / The Streets of San Francisco: Season Two (Vol. 1-2)
The final season of *Rockford Files* and the most recent collection of *The Streets of San Francisco* are high quality '70s TV at its best: chock full of brilliant character actors, well-written, time capsules of dime phone calls. Guests include: Tom Selleck, Lauren Bacall, Nick Nolte, Lola Falana, and Leslie Nielsen. If you haven't seen previous seasons of either- get on it — they are well-worth your time.

Tip: *Go to the beach, watch Rockford.*

STACEY

Your one-stop source for Classical and Power Pop.

Averkiou – *Throwing Sparks*
(CLAIRECORDS)

Rob Bonfiglio (Wanderlust/ The Skies of America) – *Bring On The Happy* (DAMASK RECORDS)

The Disciplines (Ken Stringfellow/Briskeby) – *Smoking Kills (Norwegian import)*
(VOICES MUSIC)

The Nerves – *One Way Ticket*
(ALIVE RECORDS)

A.C. Newman – *Get Guilty*
(MATADOR)

Pas/Cal – *I Was Raised On Matthew, Mark, Luke & Laura*
(LE GRAND MAGISTERY)

The Soundtrack of Our Lives – *Communion* (YEP ROC RECORDS)

Starling Electric – *Clouded Staircase* (reissue) (BAR NONE RECORDS)

Matthew Sweet – *Sunshine Lies*
(SHOUT FACTORY)

***Titan: It's All Pop* – Various Artists** (NUMERO)

STEELEE

Pablo Sandoval is the next Tony Gwynn.

Adam Payne – *Organ*
(HOLY MOUNTAIN)
Sounds like Mr. Echoes is having fun again! Blotchy shred over Raspberries/Meat Puppets chunkers. A fantastic extension of the poppy stuff on *Firsts*, last year's platter, with one extendo blastoff for the beards to chew on. We're waiting on the next one already . . .

Pussygutt – *She Hid Behind Her Veil* (20 BUCK SPIN)
Idaho duo win this year's Iceberg Sweepstakes in a crushing landslide. Fans of the slow/loud/ugly ampmelt which so many practice and so few master must find this. Oh yeah, no drums. Bass lurk w/keyboards meets armies of violins and dungeons, skulls, all that. Pets love it and curl up near the speakers. Incredibly blissful and disturbing.

Prizehog – *Alive & Well* (SELF-RELEASED)
The first squirt from the loudest band I've ever seen. I say shit like that all the time, but I think they compete, easy. Listen to this the night before and after you go see them lobotomize some dive, and you'll know. People talk about cavemen beating wooly mammoths in slow motion all the time, but this band actually does it, without bragging even.

Family Fodder – *More Great Hits!* (FREUD-JUNGLE FULL)
Tried not to include reissues, but this is special. Sparks, Beefheart, and Lee Perry all squished together with a French female vocalist. All demographics, creeds, alignments, backgrounds, sects, please apply.

TARIN

I like my music like I like my coffee... strong, smokey, with one lump of sugar and a hint of spice! BAM!... You know what I mean.

Ray LaMontagne – *Gossip in the Grain* (RCA)
I discovered Ray LaMontagne when I was listening to Pandora radio at work. I had it on just for some background music while I typed away, but when I heard the song "Barfly" I was hooked, and knew I had to hear more. Ray's sensual smokey voice paired with folk guitar riffs and country lyrics gives your heart a sense of calm and warmth. *Gossip in the Grain* is Ray's latest album, and though a bit brighter than his past albums it doesn't lack in soul and it's full of old world charm. Also check out *Trouble* and *Till the Sun Turns Black*. His sound is compared to Damien Rice, Nick Drake, Amos Lee and Ryan Adams.

Johnny Cash – *At Folsom Prison Legacy Edition* (COLUMBIA)
I traveled to Germany to celebrate my grandfather's 70th birthday last December, and while sitting in a house full with the sound of an unfamiliar language, one familiar voice sang in the background. My grandpa had put on Johnny Cash's 1968 album *At Folsom Prison*. Once I realized what I was hearing I said, "Papa?! . . . Did you just put on Johnny Cash?" And he just smiled and said, "I am 70 years old today and if I want to listen to American country then I think I should be able to!" I smiled, gave him a kiss, and applauded him for his choice. My peanut butter loving, Heinz 57, American Grandfather has lived in Germany for almost 20 years now and though he may be far away, listening to Johnny Cash always makes feel close to him. *At Folsom Prison* is an American classic, and should be respected and cherished just like a grandfather. This is one Johnny Cash album that should be in everyone's collection.

Taj Mahal – *Maestro* (HEAR MUSIC)
Taj Mahal's blues legacy is right up there with B.B. King and John Lee Hooker, and just like any great artist, Taj has brought his own personal sound to the genre. His roots influences and optimistic undertone have really changed the way blues is stereotyped. Maestro is his first domestic release in five years, and it includes the voices of Ben Harper, Jack Johnson, Ziggy Marley and many more. I'm also madly in love with his 1968 self titled album *Taj Mahal*; it brings me back to my childhood . . . Ahhh. Also check out *The Real Thing* and *Phantom Blues*.

John Legend – *Evolver* (COLUMBIA)
Five years ago, I was working for the evil empire that is Starbucks when John's first studio album *Get Lifted* came out. After we closed the store one night, I was putting the album out on the floor for the next day's release when my coworker noticed one of the albums had water damage on the cover. So, my manager gave it to me to take home . . . at first I thought, why the hell would I want this busted ass CD? But after we left the store I put it on in my car while driving home, and I was immediately hooked. I've been following his music career since then and each one of his albums has such a different sound, but they are all equally amazing. *Evolver* is John Legends latest album, and again, I'm not disappointed. John's incredible voice mixed with R&B beats makes his music something to love. FYI, I still have that copy of *Get Lifted* with the damaged cover and I will never let it go.

Sex and the City: The Movie – Directed by Michael Patrick King

There is nothing more important for a woman than having a few close girl friends (sorry fellas, we still love ya though). Friends that love you for exactly who you are; friends to gossip with about men troubles and true loves, friends to drink with, laugh with, and cry with. OK, so the average woman is not going to have three close girl friends with perfect figures and endless amounts of money for Manolo Blahnik shoes and designer hand bags, but the topics that are brought up in the show and movie are real. Every girl can relate to the subject matter if they will admit it or not. The movie was a great end to the amazing HBO series.

Tropic Thunder – Directed by Ben Stiller

Woooow dude! . . . That was like totally awesome! The action was totally stellerrrr . . .This was definitely a typical guys' movie, but as a woman I thought it was great as well. Ben Stiller always goes so over-the-top with his characters that it works for him, and with another over the topper like Jack Black, and Robert Downey Jr. by his side, this movie kind of worked for me... *Tropic Thunder* is a movie that you love to hate and hate to love. So grab some friends, some fatty food and a sixer, and enjoy almost two hours of ridiculousness. Foooo-Real!

Tip:
Once you find that special someone who actually likes the same music as you, hold on tight, and go to as many concerts as you can. Plus I heard that 50% of all divorces are caused over bad choices in music...What?! It could be true.

TOM L.

Photobooth – *Da Me Tus Besos*

(DAGGER MAN RECORDS)
Three song 7". Tuneful, manic glee by SF/Oakland foursome with the right attitude— "Let's get together and have a ball!" These guys can rock down at the government center or dig into the sand at Rockaway Beach. Get your senior picture taken with Photobooth!

The Downhome Blues Sessions Volume 5: Back In The Alley 1949-1954 – Various Artists (ACE)

Yet more gut bucket, stompin' Blues & wailin' R&B from the south east to the East Bay. Rare sides from "Flair," "RPM," and "Money," this collection is a must for long time fans and new arrivals to the sound.

Bob Geddins' IRMA Records Story, Bob Geddins' Big Town Record Story, & The Trilon Records Story 1946-1948 – Various Artists

(ACROBAT MUSIC)
Get a crash course in Bay Area Blues history with these three volumes. These collections take you back to the days when Oakland's 7th Street swung 24/7 to the sounds of Juke Boy Bonner, Johnny Fuller, Lee Vernon & His Motley Crew, and Jimmy McCracklin, with many more crowding the bandstands up and down the street. Not as well known as Chicago's Chess crowd, but just as deserving of your ears, like Jimmy McCracklin urges — "Take a chance!" It's worth it.

Vincent Price – *Master Of The Macabre* (EL CHERRY RED RECORDS)

CD issue of three vintage Vincent radio performances from the classic program SUSPENSE! From 1944 and 1957, including the Edgar Allan Poe story Price would star in the motion picture, *The Pit And The Pendulum*. SUSPENSE! was the perfect blend of hard boiled crime & noir-ish horror, with the highest production values on radio at the time, and the biggest names in Hollywood guesting each week, and Vincent Price goes for the jugular in these three radio shockers!

Night Gallery: Season Two

The final season Rod Serling's showplace of the erie and the disturbing, with scripts by Mr. Serling, adaptions of H.P. Lovecraft, August Derleth, Robert Bloch, Clark Ashton Smith, and A.E. van Gogt. Bonuses on this set include an interview with Tom Wright, painter of all of those fantastic works of art that made up that place of all places, the *Night Gallery.*

TONY GREEN

Stoneleigh Savignon Blanc 2006 - the bomb!

Redd Kross – *Third Eye*

(RHINO ENCORE)
Their best LP back in print. "Annies Gone" is good with a Paso Robles Pinot.

Brenda & The Tabulations – *The Top & Bottom Singles Collection 1969-1971, Dionn Singles Collection 1966-1969*

(JAMIE/GUYDEN)
These two comps have some filler, but the best stuff on these two CD's is great Brill Building soul. "Dry Your Eyes" on the former and "The Touch Of You" on the latter are as perfect as, say, Dionne Warwick's "Walk On By." Gotta have bubbly with these.

Brightblack Morning Light – *Motion To Rejoin* (MATADOR)

A new genre — pop/drone. Weirdly addictive ambient scuzz that's just oozing along while you're vacuuming and then pow! a great hook tries to rise outta the muck. Horrible hippies though. Maybe good at Rio Vista, round sunset, with a dry Rose??

El Guincho – *Alegranza*

(MISTLETONE/XL)
You're wasted on a really cheap Spanish red, and you fall to the ground. Off in the distance you hear the clatter of a seaside boardwalk amusement park, but it's way too loud and dangerous, like being stoned with pitted olives while buried in the ground up to your neck as someone pours sangria on your head about 2 inches from a ferris wheel. This is like that.

Johnny Burnette – *Johnny Burnette & The Rock'n'Roll Trio*

(NORTON/CORAL)
Cranked-up really high reissue of super-rare 1957 LP. Memphis rockabilly with no filler. Cheap white, guzzled, straight from a jug.

VERN!

Enjoying science, music and stuff since 1985.

P.J. Harvey – *White Chalk*

This album is dreamy and spooky. Very personal — I almost felt as if I shouldn't be listening.

Fripp & Eno – *No Pussyfooting*

The second disc is most magnificent — a backwards track and a track at half speed. What more can you ask for?

Lustmord – *Other*

Turn off the lights and crank it up.

Lindstrom – *Where You Go I Go Too*

Dance, or do a science experiment.

Blue Sabbath Black Cheer – *The Endless Blockade*

New Thrill Parade – *Slumber In Colorland*

A total mind f**k. Stewy ya-ya!

Wild Combination: A Portrait of Arthur Russell – Directed by Matt Wolf

Sweet Movie – Directed by Dusan Makavejev

"In all my years of practice, I've never seen anything so sweet. A rosebud."

Pineapple Express – Directed by David Gordon Green

Gymkata – Directed by Robert Clouse

The skill of gymnastics, the kill of karate.

Little Murders – Directed by Alan Arkin

"Why does one decide to marry? Social pressure? Boredom? Loneliness? Sexual appeasement? Love? I won't put any of these reasons down. Each in its own way is adequate, each is all right. Last year, I married a musician who wanted to get married in order to stop masturbating. Please, don't be startled, I'm not putting him down. That marriage did not work. But the man tried. He is now separated, still masturbating, but he is at peace with himself because he tried society's way."

Burn After Reading – Directed by the Coen Bros.

Justice – *A Cross The Universe* (DVD+CD)

Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun

Tip:
Louder. Louder. Louder.

VINNIE

Jimmy Radway & The Fe Me Time All Stars – *Dub I*
(PRESSURE SOUNDS)
One of the best dub reissues in a long time. It's EXACTLY what you want in '70s reggae dub: raw, gritty, spacey and very very heavy. Top shelf stuff.

***Motown Flies Jamaica Vol. 2* – Various Artists** (JAMAICAN AIRLINES)
Yes, this is as good as it sounds. The long and short of this is that someone took original Motown a cappellas and put them together with rock-steady, and reggae rhythms that are amazingly NOT cheesy. It sounds pretty authentic overall, even though the nature of this release is somewhat dubious. *Part* 1 is also great, but kind of tough to find nowadays.

East New York Ensemble De Music – *At the Helm* (IKEF)
Originally released on Folkways in the mid-'70s, this is an outstanding fusion of jazz and Middle Eastern with touches of avant garde. Hypnotic melodies, heavy bass lines, top notch playing; you get the idea... An incredible album that, unfortunately, is not available on vinyl, so the CD will have to do for now. If you like this, pick up Yusef Lateef's *Eastern Sounds* as well.

***Gangsters Dedications Vol. 1* – Various Artists** (SOUL STRIVERS)
Fantastic collection of rare lowrider oldies. This is exactly what you wanna be listening to when you are either a) BBQing in the park with family and friends on a Sunday afternoon, b) cruisin' the strip on a Sunday afternoon, and c) wishing it was a Sunday afternoon. Nice sound quality too!

Amanaz – *Africa* (SHADOKS)
Incredible (and pricey) reissue of African psychedelic rock. Very heavy and hypnotic. A must for both fans of African soul and psych rock. Yellow 180 gram vinyl. Deluxe packaging. No CD (to my knowledge). Grab this while it's around.

ZACK

James Brown – *The Singles Volume 6: 1969-1970* (HIP-O-SELECT)
Thus continues the saga of the greatest story ever told! Having found volumes one through five (except for 2, help!) I was thrilled to see number six come out of this utterly remarkable collection. Let's assume everybody already knows the merits of The Godfather of Soul, Soul Brother Number One, Mr. Dynamite, The Hardest Working Man in Show Business, The Man With More Nick Names Than Your Entire Family Line Son! If you don't know, ya better ask somebody. Charting in the fifties and continuing relentlessly into the eighties (and beyond when you consider the frenzy of JB samples), James Brown is arguably the greatest thing of all time. That said, there have certainly been no shortage of JB collections. But the singles baby, the singles! This cat was pumping out 45s at a frantic rate, every one a solid sender of classic rhythm and blues like only one man can do. Each one of these singles collections comes with two CDs, totalling roughly forty songs, include extensive liner notes with track by track commentary, and fascinating graphics. And they are LIMITED EDITION!!! No? Yes! Get them while you can, this goes beyond music and music history, this is history itself. Get in where ya fit in!

The Tip Top Trio – *The Tip Top Trio: Ripped Open and Torn Apart*
Following on the heels of their 2008 release *The Tip Top Trio*, these guys are offering a new DVD of their explosive live rockabilly mayhem. Rockabilly? Rockabiiillllllly!!! Sun Records style offerings cook with a liquored up intensity that shake, that hum, that stay tight as a drum. Check out the ludicrously virtuotastic upright bass slapping, with the runaway train acoustic rhythm guitar, and tangy more than Scotty Moore lead lines. Add three part harmony and balls to the wall hellbound fury and, well... ya might wanna pick this up! Dig?

Bob Wills & His Texas Playboys – *The Tiffany Transcriptions*
(COLLECTOR'S CHOICE MUSIC)
Probably my favorite group that most people my age have never heard anything about, Bob Wills & His Texas Playboys not only originated the western swing genre as we know it, but on these recordings took the art form to a state of hot swingin', bare-knuckled perfection. Not that their regular releases weren't sublime in and of themselves, they were Jack. But these here gems were radio transcriptions (recorded right here in San Francisco matter of fact) where the boys didn't have to sweat cutting a perfect take to sell records with (which they did with astounding ease for the record, shmyeah!) and instead simply cut loose with the swing thing know what I mean? Like a beautifully recorded live show, The Playboys are laying it down here raw and real. Somebody please buy this for me. Don't burn it, I need the liner notes. Choice!

HOLLYWOOD

AARON J. ALDORISIO

Buyer and pricer of stuff and/or things.

The Rats – *The Rats* (MISSISSIPPI)
Fred and Toody Cole's punk/new wave band. That's pretty much all you need to know. I've said it before and I'm sure I'll say it again, but Mississippi Records can do no wrong!

Matmos – *Supreme Balloon*
(MATADOR)
Modern synthesizer music that you can't really dance to. Refreshing!

The Dead C. – *Secret Earth* (BA DA BING!)
Their best record since *Harsh 70s Reality*. Songs, but really f'd up, long songs. The real deal stoner rock.

Arthur Russell – *Love Is Overtaking Me* (AUDIKA)
Everything this man did was perfect...be it disco or folk or avant garde cello music. Buy it all!

Harry Pussy – *You'll Never Play This Town Again* (LOAD)
Greatest band of the 1990s, no question. This is the logical end of hardcore.

Tip: *Sleep. The band is great, but I'm talking about the physical act of sleeping. Nothing beats it!*

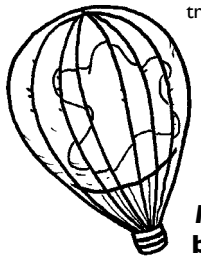
AARON DETROIT

music lover/nerd. other info is likely available via google (the all seeing eye!).

Yussuf Jerusalem – *A Heart Full of Sorrow* (FLORIDAS DYING)
A Fuzzed-out, Psychedelic, Garage-y, Black Metal-lic, Poppy Bedroom Opus by some mysterious French dude. He's some sort of magical wizard of lo-fi darkness. Catchy tunes, melancholic melodies, eerie production — absolutely one of the best things I heard in 2008.

Selfish Cunt – *English Chamber Music* (SPARROW'S TEAR)
Political, Personal Art-Punk like you ain't heard in a long while! Dropping the Minimal Electro-Punk trappings of his first Selfish Cunt LP, Martin Tomlinson returns with a fantastic and ferocious full band. The revitalized SC bring with them a batch of incendiary anthems of protest, channeled suffering schrei, and impassioned celebration of "the life." Highly Recommended for fans of UK punk of the Huggy Bear ilk.

Cult of Youth – *A Stick To Bind, A Seed To Grow* (DAIS RECORDS)
Dais Records is on a roll with just their third release! Cult of Youth has all the signifiers but none of the current staleness of the Neofolk genre! FRESH FRESH FRESH! Sean Ragon's vocals have an untrained almost Punkish quality that give Cult Of Youth a sense of urgency and passion lacking in many new Neofolk acts, and help make make this album an instant classic of the genre. HIGHLY RECOMMENDED, especially to early Death in June and Strength Through Joy fans.



***Happy-Go-Lucky* – Directed by Mike Leigh**
On Import DVD. Sally Hawkins was robbed of an Oscar nomination for her performance in this film. It's one of 2008's ten best performances in one of the year's ten best films. It is also one of Mike Leigh's finest moments. VERY funny and poignant!

***Long Way Round (Collectors Edition Box Set)* – Featuring Ewan McGregor & Charley Boorman**
Ewan McGregor & Charley Boorman travel the world on motorcycles. Waaaaaaay better than it initially sounds. The first series made me want to pack my bags immediately. Totally addictive, high quality fun! This box set features the second series *Long Way Down* and Charlie Boorman's solo venture series *Race to Dakar*. All series are quality! Something I learned watching *Long Way Round*: Ewan McGregor is totally the dude you want to find yourself stranded with in Middle-of-Fucking-Nowhere, Eastern Europe when the Mobster shows up with automatic weapons and a guitar!

Dead Luke – *Running Scared*
(SWEET ROT RECORDS)
More tunes from my favorite bedroom troubadour in Madison, Wisconsin. Catchy, Lo-fi, ghostly goodness. This is the third 7" of dark yet poppy Bedroom New Wave from Dead Luke. Luke, unfortunately, has

already announced the retirement of this particular moniker to focus his time on his other projects, Absinthe Minds and playing in/with Zola Jesus (another current favorite of mine). Fear not though, he'll have two LP's worth of material out in the next year on both Sacred Bones Records and Floridas Dying and various other cassette and 7" releases. Dead Luke is Dead! Long Live Dead Luke!

Wolves in the Throne Room – *Malevolent Grain* (SOUTHERN LORD)

I've been told Wolves in The Throne Room make Black Metal for people who don't like Black Metal, and I'm just fine with that. This band never fail to impress me and *Malevolent Grain* is no exception. Brutally beautiful.

The Joy Formidable – "Cradle" b/w "The Last Drop"

(TRY HARDER RECORDS)

"Cradle" sounds like a lost classic from MTV's *120 Minutes* circa the late '80s/early '90s. In the vein of Throwing Muses, Pixies, The Breeders or Belly. In other words, a heavy Kim Deal/Tanya Donelly vibe/influence here, with good lumps of The Charlottes and early-era The Primitives. Poppy, lush & lovely. Catchy as all get-out!

Julian Cope – *Black Sheep*

(HEAD HERITAGE)

Psychedelic Folky Pop peppered with tough bits of Garage Punk gristle. Lyrical meditations on world affairs, anthems against Monotheism, and, as always, odes to the Earth. The best work Mr. Cope has done since 1993's CLASSIC *Jehovahkill*. Includes the instant sing-along "All The Blowing-Themselves-Up-Motherfuckers (Will Realize The Minute They Die That They Themselves Were Suckers)." CD available now with a LP version soon to be released! Yay!

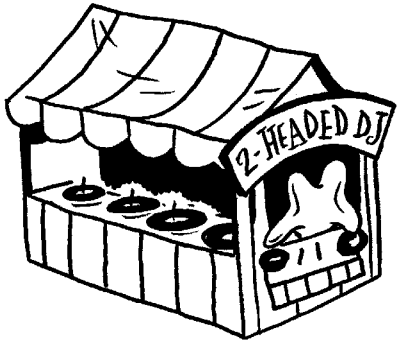
Kiss Napoleon Goodbye – Directed by Babeth Mondini-Vanloo, featuring Lydia Lunch

This long, long, long whispered about short film is finally on DVD. It is legendary for its (rumored real) sex scene between Lydia Lunch and Henry Rollins. No one can explain to me why this film exists. Apparently it was commissioned by some Art Historian and was publicly shown only twice — once in The Netherlands and once in Berlin. The quality of the transfer on this DVD is not that great (really? no one had a better copy?), but then again the film seems to have been made with a home video camera. It's a half hour of barely audible dialogue, lovely shots of Lydia and Hank's mugs, Lydia in various states of undress, novelist/spoken word artist Don Bajema bashing out windows with a hammer, lots of Hank and Lydia licking each other's faces before bumping uglies explicitly, and weird non sequitur shots of (what I assume is) Napoleonic-era sex in a horse carriage. Total trainwreck. It's friggin' awesome. I loved every minute of it. Plus the DVD is stacked with bonus content better than the main feature — various Lydia Lunch concert footage, spoken word performances and an interview.

Tip: *Artists to be on the look out for: Blessure Grave on the forthcoming Blessure Grave / Cold Cave / Crocodiles three-way split 7" on Down In The Ground.*

Buy everything Dais Records puts out, it is all quality!

Check Out Kristin Hersh's, and Patrick Wolf's, recent ongoings online. They both have interesting ideas in how fans can invest, help fund and release Artists' recordings and reap some of the benefits.



ANNIE

Licensed information specialist extraordinaire. Question? 5 cents please!

Britney Spears – *Circus* (JIVE)

Well people.... this MWL of 2008 is the year of the pop! This year I was moved by the pop and dance hits that smacked me upside my head!!! First Britney!!!! Thank God! Living in Hollywood you can see the damages done to the pop icon! She's back up and on her feet with the appropriately titled *Circus*! Definitely, it conveys all her struggles after the release of *Blackout* in 2007. The tracks featured on *Circus* are the best bootie shakin' jams she's released since *Britney*! It's a great pop record that has 3-4 really infectious tracks and a few that use creative lyrics to get the point across … "If You Seek Amy". . . that was a little over my head! Listen to it — you'll get it! I loved it!

Sam Sparro – *Sam Sparro* (UNIVERSAL)

This aussie gent's self-titled debut that was released in May by Island in the UK made me realize that if Simply Red and Daft Punk had a baby Sam Sparro would be it! Sounds odd right?! … Wrong! It's a great mix of fun pop, indie rock, and electro!!! The single "Black & Gold" helped the artist get mainstream attention. It has a strong throwback '80s vibe that makes this employee jump for joy. This record makes you kick off yo' dancin' shoes and get buck wild!

The House Bunny – Directed by Fred Wolf

If a recent DVD release belonged in a music genre *The House Bunny* starring Anna Faris would definitely belong in pop!!! *The House Bunny* is an extremely funny, light-hearted comedy that parodies a playboy bunny getting kicked out of the mansion and becoming a house mother for a SoCal sorority that needs as much help as they can get! Fellas and lovely ladies will be in stitches from Faris' delivery as a bunny!

Endless Boogie – *Focus Level*

(NO QUARTER)

Moving away from the pop genre... into the cosmos... I give you the group Endless Boogie! Their release on No Quarter records, *Focus Level* made me wanna lean back, pass a joint, and watch *Freaks & Geeks* in my parents' basement with the black light on! The album is 79 minutes of pure stoner jam rock, and with a lead singer named Top Dollar how can you not pick this up?!

Brightblack Morning Light – *Motion To Rejoin* (MATADOR)

My final pick this year is another cosmos-inspired band: Brightblack Morning Light. The more I find out about this duo (they live in teepees in the summer), the more I love everything they do. Signed by Matador and unshaken by critics, this group decided to record *Motion To Rejoin* in the desert in New Mexico. The album was recorded with solar power and allowed eight different tracks that feel like one fluid relaxation session. If your life is overwhelmed by chaos and technology this album takes you down to a level of calming inner peace that is almost a surreal meditative state. I usually never listen to the freaky folk scene but honestly I love this album! It had me at Hello!

Tip: *p.s. Your mom called and said the new Animal Collective falls short! This is a group that doesn't need to sound poppy! Sorry!*

BOONE JAXSON

"... if you got up early enough, he reflected, you could get on board the day and ride it easy, otherwise it got ahead of you and you had to push it along in front of you as it went." — paul bowles, let it come down

Steve Bug – *Bugnology 3* (POKER FLAT)

I have purchased half of the singles on this mix. I am confident that I could use them as an arsenal to defeat anyone who doesn't have what it takes to chill the fuck out.

ZZ Top – *Live From Texas* (EAGLE)

ZZ Top is in my "top ten." This lil mama made me remember how much fun it is to sing "Tube Snake Boogie." Great day!

Stefan Goldmann – *The Empty Foxhole* (MULE MUSIC)

One of the best mix CDs I have heard in a moment. Stefan captures everything I love about how you can change your attitude with every euphoric synth stab/emotional vocal/huge pads!

Mr. Oizo – *Lambs Anger* (ED BANGER)

Quentin Dupieux, i bow to you and your glitched out '90s production skills. Don't hate on Ed Banger, this one's a smoker!

E-40 – *Ball Street Journal*

(SICK WID' IT RECORDS)

The beats & bass on this record will destroy any stock system. Do not attempt to play this on your crappy speakers. If you do, Earl Stevens will clown you.

Ame – *Fabric 42* (FABRIC RECORDS)

Home of the monster tracks. I played this mix in the store inauguration day 2009. House music for the nation!

Neil Young – *Sugar Mountain: Live At Canterbury House 1968*

(REPRISE)

He was 22 years old when this was recorded. Sugar Mountain! i will never pretend to be this cool.

Tip: *if you are shopping at amoeba you must have a list! brozone.org is the best social networking site in the universe.*

BRAD

Antony & the Johnsons – *The Crying Light* (SECRETLY CANADIAN)

If you loved him before, you will not be disappointed by this album. And if you have never experienced the magic that is Antony & the Johnsons please go see him live!

Morrissey – *Years of Refusal*

(LOST HIGHWAY)

I feel like Morrissey let me down for a couple of years. But he is quickly making up for it with these last couple albums. He seems to be just getting better with age. I think I like this album more than the last already.

Grace Jones – *Hurricane* (IMPORT)
I have been obsessed with Grace Jones since I first saw her in *Conan* and *View to a Kill*. I am so happy she made this album for us. It is way better than you expect and as good as you would expect it to be.

Pelle Carlberg – *The Lilac Time*
(LABRADOR)
Easily one of my favorite albums of last year. This guy from Sweden is also in the band Edson and completely underrated. For fans of Belle & Sebastian and Jens Lekman.

Empire of the Sun – *Walking On a Dream* (IMPORT)
This could end up being my favorite Siegfried and Roy inspired album cover of the year. Great pop album from Australia. For fans of MGMT who need a new favorite band.

Los Campesinos! – *We Are Beautiful We Are Doomed*
(ARTS & CRAFTS)
I love this record a whole lot more every time I listen to it. A more pop version of Cursive.

Fever Ray – *Fever Ray* (MUTE)
This is the new solo project from Karin of The Knife. But it could easily just be another Knife album as good as any of their others. Don't think she will get any new fans with this record but she will keep any fans that like the genius of The Knife.

Asobi Seksu – *Hush* (POLYVINYL)
A nice little shoegaze twee type album from New York. A lighter, more fun version of My Bloody Valentine.

BRETT SHADY

I kind of work upstairs.

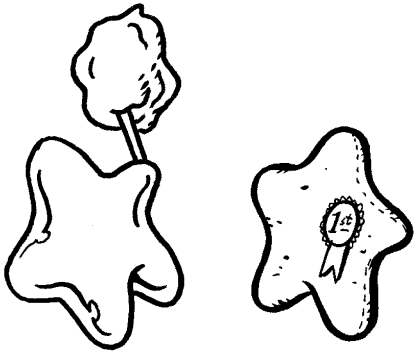
Ida Maria – *Fortress Round My Heart*
Yeah, I know . . . I put her in my last list, but she played two shows in LA after that and I didn't see you at either of them so here she is again. The songs are good but see her live.

***Vicky Cristina Barcelona* – Directed by Woody Allen**
Come on, hotshot filmmakers! You were totally showed up by a 73-year old man this year!

***The Wrestler* – Directed by Darren Aronofsky**
This movie is like life: Happy and sad and depressing and funny and conflicted and unpredictable and filled with laughs and blood and tears and wrestling in barbed wire.

The Tallest Man on Earth – *Shallow Grave*
Another Scandinavian. They should be disqualified by now. I've just recently heard this guy, so I can't really vouch for the whole album until I listen to the entire thing through. But just listen to the song "The Gardener" and just try to not want to hear the whole album. You'll probably love it as much as I do.

Tip: *Listen to my dang old tunes: myspace.com/brettshady-songs*



BRIAN G.

Glasvegas – *Glasvegas* (COLUMBIA)
Combine the anthemic epics of Manic Street Preachers — sung in the thickest of Scottish accents — with a hearty helping of Phil Spector's Wall of Sound, a touch of The Jesus and Mary Chain's shoegazer drone, and some '60s-girl group and doo-wop sounds for good measure, and you get the amazing self-titled debut album by Glasvegas. Despite the plethora of influences, this Glaswegian band sounds uniquely their own, a fresh burst of brutally honest lyrics and dynamic songcraft. From the devastating album opener "Flowers & Football Tops" (written about the murder of Scottish teenager Kriss Donald), Glasvegas work their magic into one of the most drop-dead heartbreaking moments ever recorded onto tape. Gently segueing into the catchy and kind-hearted single "Geraldine," the broken and guilt-ridden voice of "It's My Own Cheating Heart That Makes Me Cry," the stomping fightsong anthem "Go Square Go," the emotional '60s-girl group rocker "Daddy's Gone," and the infinitely-building walls of sound of somber closer "Ice Cream Van," each one of the album's ten tracks is a definite highlight. Glasvegas is one of the most promising new bands in rock music today, and Glasvegas gets my vote as my favorite album of the year.

Available as an import-only from the UK is a special edition 2-CD set featuring the original 10-track Glasvegas album, plus a newly-recorded Christmas-themed mini-album, titled *A Snowflake Fell (And It Felt Like A Kiss)*. Recorded over ten days in a cathedral-turned-studio in Transylvania and two days in New York, *A Snowflake Fell* features the blistering tell-off "Fuck You, It's Over," the touching centerpiece "Cruel Moon," the wall of guitars, bells and strings in single "Please Come Back Home," and a haunting version of "Silent Night" (subtitled "Noapte De Vis") featuring the Concentus Choir of Brasov, Romania. While the songs are linked to that special time of the season, the mini-album stands proudly next to the band's full-length LP as prime Glasvegas, whether it's the dead of winter or the burning peak of summertime.

Mark Kozelek – *The Finally LP*
(CALDO VERDE)
Mark Kozelek's *The Finally LP* is a collection of unreleased tracks and cover songs previously featured on various artist compilations, gathered into one concise, digestible package. Bookended by two original instrumental tracks, the remaining eight songs offer some insight into the influences of slowcore pioneer Kozelek, as well as evidence of how Koz can take any song and make it uniquely his own. From Will Oldham's "New Partner," to a country-rock version of "Lazy" by fellow slowcore comrades Low, and a[nother] version of AC/DC's "If You Want Blood," Kozelek's gently finger-picked guitar and sorrowful vocals aim straight for the jugular. The album's definite highlight and centerpiece is his cover of punk band Husker Dü's seminal classic "Celebrated Summer," whose lyrics perfectly mirror Kozelek's own sentiments of lost youth and faded memories.

White Lies – *To Lose My Life...*
(FICTION)
To Lose My Life... (a.k.a. *To Lose My Life or Lose My Love*) is the debut album from British post-punk band White Lies, a band from a long line of recent '80s-inspired dark-disco-revivalists. Lead singer Harry McVeigh is the pivotal focus, with his yelps like Brandon Flowers (The Killers) or David Byrne (Talking Heads), down to his somber and droney baritone à la Ian Curtis (Joy Division) or Ian McCulloch (Echo and the Bunnymen). Sure, the band warrants the numerous undeniable comparisons to the forefathers of gloom-and-doom post-punk, but White Lies have crafted a consistent and powerful set of songs that rival not only their peers (Editors, Interpol), but stands strong next to their influences (Depeche Mode, Morrissey, The Cure, the aforementioned Joy Division and Bunnymen). The band's strengths truly surge on the unrelenting lead single "To Lose My Life," the cold "Unfinished Business," the driving opener "Death," and the bleak-becomes-soaring "Nothing to Give." *To Lose My Life* . . . is a miserably dark but exceptionally good debut from a gifted new band, right down to the morbidly-obsessed lyrics and the eerily haunting album cover.

Tip: *New DOVES album in April!*

BROOKE BACK

Rock-N-roll mama, cashier manager, massage therapist, headbanger extraordinaire! Single & looking.

Eagles of Death Metal – *Heart On*
(DOWNTOWN)
The third outing for these guys. A seeming "high desert homage" to the City of Angels. Josh "Baby Duck" Homme and Jesse "Boots Electric" Hughes tear it up yet again! Funky, porch-y, garagey, fun rock! And nobody covers Stealers Wheel & the Stones quite like these cats!

Cocoa Tea – Barack Obama (single)
Reggae tribute to our Commander-In-Chief (before he was elected). Good times with a message! Check it!

Endless Boogie – *Focus Level*
(NO QUARTER)
Holy Hades! Thought I was hearing a '70s band that had slipped under my radar! Modern group with amazing '70s sensibilities! Fans of classic Sabbath or modern stoner rock, do yourself a favor...give this disc (on vinyl or CD) a spin!

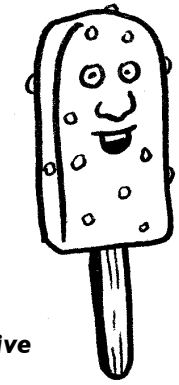
Tip: *Live, local bands:*
Sasquatch, Angus Khan, HDR & Virginia City Revival

CAROL

***Mad Mike Monsters Vol. 1* – Various Artists** (NORTON)
Also on vinyl LP!

***Mad Mike Monsters Vol. 2* – Various Artists** (NORTON)
Also on vinyl LP!

***Mad Mike Monsters Vol 3.* – Various Artists**
(NORTON)
Also on vinyl LP!



***Patti Smith: Dream of Life* – Directed by Steven Sebring**

***Lucinda Williams: Live From Austin, TX '89* – Directed by Terry Lickona**
Lucinda Williams' very first appearance on Austin City Limits.

Honey West - The Complete Series
4 DVD set of the entire 1965 [and only] season of this great TV detective show starring Anne Francis.

CHARLIE

I've been a music lover all my life, and the existence of music constantly reaffirms my faith in humanity. Thank heavens I can work in an environment permeated by music and surrounded by those who share my passion. Salut!

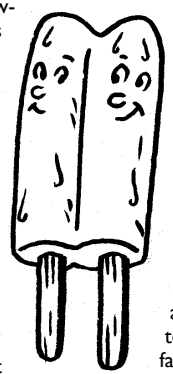
Romantic Residues
Music by Alec Roth; Benjamin Britten; Howard Skempton; Gabriel Faure; Maurice Ravel; Andre Caplet; Camille Saint-Saens; Marcel Tournier
Featuring James Gilchrist (tenor); Alison Nicholls (harp); Jaime Martin (flute)
As tenor recitals go, *Romantic Residues* is very unusual, and not only because it features several world premiere recordings; the novelty here is that instead of the usual piano accompaniment, tenor James Gilchrist is supported by solo harp (and in some tracks also by flute). Gilchrist's voice is like silk, and the selections chosen for the recital couldn't match his sweet tone better. In particular, the haunting "From California," a new piece by Alec Roth that opens the disc, stays with the listener for quite some time —not only for the beautiful sonorities of Roth's music, but also for Vikram Seth's gorgeous poetry. The rest of the pieces are well chosen. Some are familiar, some are not, but combined they make a terrific effect. In short, this is one of the most original and mesmerizing song recitals to appear on the scene in quite some time.

Orchestral Music
Music by William Alwyn
Featuring Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra; David Lloyd-Jones (conductor)
While English composer William Alwyn might be best known for his larger-scaled works and film scores, it is in these little orchestral miniatures that the true charm of his music is revealed. There's nothing heavy-handed here (as can sometimes be found in his symphonies), and the general sense one gets when listening to them is of a genius at play. There are seven gems on this delightful CD which range from the rollicking ("Overture to a Masque") to the sublimely pastoral ("Pastoral Fantasia" for viola & strings) to the hauntingly pensive ("Tragic Interlude" — inspired by the 1st world war). David Lloyd-Jones obviously loves this music, and the Royal Liverpool Phil play it for all it's worth. 68 minutes of magic.

Christus, der ist mein Leben
Music by J.S. Bach
Featuring Collegium Vocale Gent ; Philippe Herreweghe (conductor)
Herreweghe's survey of Bach's vast output of sacred cantatas continues with this latest volume, which includes BWV 27,84, 95, and 161. None of these are particularly well known, but Herreweghe finds the hidden beauties in these scores like no one else, making each cantata shine like a mini-masterpiece. And why shouldn't they? It boggles the mind that Bach, who had to write one of these every Sunday of the church year, so rarely penned anything unmemorable, with the result that each cantata contains something richly rewarding. As usual the instrumentalists and soloists are top rate, the recorded sound perfect, and the presentation flawless. Do not hesitate to add this to your Bach collection.

Mission Road
Music by Juan Bautista Sancho; Manuel de Sumaya; anonymous
Featuring Chanticleer
Much of the music sung in the California missions during the Spanish colonial period was not imported from Europe, but written by local composers who lived and worked in the missions themselves. As a genre, this music has been almost entirely forgotten — the San Francisco choral group, Chanticleer, revive it on this CD & DVD package with wonderful success. Who knew that such glorious sounds existed here right in our own backyard, buried in archives, just waiting to be rediscovered? The works that Chanticleer has chosen for the album obviously represent the best of the lot — and these are truly works of genius. Hardly second-rate scribblings produced in a cultural outpost, these pieces rank up there with some of the most glorious liturgical music being produced in the old world at that time, and the native influence gives them their own individual style and sound. The companion DVD included in the set provides interviews which elucidate the history of the music, as well as live performances of some of it, shot before the beautiful background of California's missions. This is a must-have for choral fans.

Memory Takes My Hand
Music by Craig Armstrong
Clio Gould (violin); Lucy Crowe (soprano); Apollo Voices; BBC Symphony Orchestra; Garry Walker (conductor)
Craig Armstrong is best known as a film composer, but the pieces on this disc reveal that he's very successful in the concert hall as well. "Immer," the first work on the disc, is a concerto for violin and orchestra, which begins with a long, flowing, singing line on the violin which remains seemingly static for most of the piece, but which, in actuality, gradually mutates and changes, as its embryonic elements are full born. "One Minute" is a devilishly clever exercise — 15 works for orchestra, all one minute in length. That each of these is also highly memorable is a great credit to the composer. *Memory Takes My Hand* is an intricate work for soprano, choir and orchestra which, once heard, is not easily forgotten. As a whole, the soloists, choir, orchestra and conductor couldn't make a better case for this fascinating music than they do here. Recommended for those who want to expand their musical horizons.



CHRIS CURTIS

"Synths are Fun!"

Explorers Club – *Freedom Wind*
(DEAD OCEANS)
These guys won't win any awards for originality, but they capture the magic of the Beach Boys pretty convincingly.

Black Moth Super Rainbow — *Dandelion Gum* (GRAVEFACE)
Tripped-out melodic phreakery, very psychedelic while avoiding obvious genre earmarks. Delightfully woozy and synthy. Their other releases are very worthy of exploration as well.

The Millennium – *Begin*
(SUNDAZED MUSIC)
Classic late sixties pop-psych opus finally available again as a stand-alone CD and non-bootleg LP. Lush harmonies, gorgeous songs, and spacey sonics.

Tip: *You don't look at "porns" on the "internets" so how can you buy "vinyls?"*

CHRIS GARCIA

"Like a pocket map to heaven."
A small town boy with a big heart.

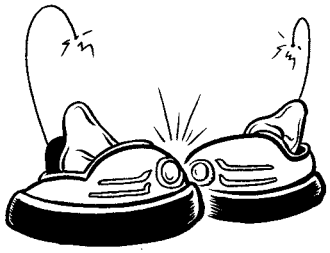
Phosphorescent – *To Willie*
(DEAD OCEANS)
\Matthew Houck has created a loving tribute album to the immortal Willie Nelson. Check out other Phosphorescent releases *The Weight of Flight EP* and the last 2 full lengths, *Aw Come Aw Wry* and *Pride,* for more melancholy in your life.

Bonnie "Prince" Billy – *Is It The Sea?* (DOMINO)
The mighty "Prince" Oldham proving yet again why he is "the greatest tender of God's small song." Recorded live in Edinburgh.

Hank Williams – *Unreleased Recordings*
(TIME/LIFE)
A great collection of originals and covers of popular country songs of the time. These are songs Hank loved himself and you can tell by his performances. A must have for any fan of "Harm."

Ween – *At the Cat's Cradle, 1992*
(CHOCODOG)
Dean and Gene played the Kennel Club in San Francisco on this tour when I was living there. I was so drunk and stoned I barely remember the show, but Boognish has made it all okay. Includes a DVD you can play with. All praise be to Boognish!

Swervedriver – *Raise / Mezcal Head - Remastered* (SECOND MOTION)
The original issues never did these records any justice. Too American sounding to be considered "shoegazer" and too British to be grunge, Swervedriver landed somewhere in the middle. Fans of *Priest Driven* Flaming Lips and Nirvana will dig these records.



COURTNEY

The Dark Knight – Directed by Christopher Nolan

Beautifully shot and organized. A captivating and dynamic movie, reminiscent of the Batman movies from the '80s, but with better special effects. I'm pretty sure everyone's seen this by now, and there's a reason.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the Fabulous Stains – Directed by Lou Adler

Finally! Finally! Finally! No more crappy bootlegs.... After you watch this movie, you'll realize where the White Stripes got their name and their look (it wasn't even a little original). Diane Lane's (Corrine Burns') teenage punk rock attitude is awesomely portrayed, making you want to join her band (gang), kick every grown-up's ass, and punch every dude. Not only do the Stains illustrate the ultimate rise/fall/rise to the top, but this movie even rivals the movie *Foxes* to me. With an uncanny Go-Go's portrayal of a chick band, I highly recommend this cult movie favorite to anyone who likes music.

Satyricon – *The Age of Nero*

(ROADRUNNER)

The Stabbin Cabin has not been able to shake this album...not only is it Black Metally, but it's got every other type of metal and hard rock elements ground into it. Don't judge a Black Metal band by its cover! You could be passing by an awesome metal album. Catchy hooks, riffs, vocals, and lyrics, all make for a quality album from Satyricon.

Ancestors – *Neptune With Fire*

(TEE PEE)

Only because Robbie from *Pitchfork* said it so well: "The album consists of just two songs — 'Orcus' Avarice' is over 16 minutes, the title track is more than 20 — and both serve as launching pads for extended jams. But the soloing is supported by some serious riffs. 'Orcus' Avarice' evokes CoC, with an urgency that brings to mind 'Heaven's Not Overflowing' and a pace reminiscent of 'Albatross.' It's the kind of lumbering meganess that easily turns on a dime. So by the time the drums have reeled in, and the guitars ascend into outer-space, it's hard to recall the tumult that came only moments before. Ancestors, able to do more than whip up a simple fervor, spend a good six minutes inspecting the same guitar scale and a slippery blues bassline that gradually builds to climax, like creatine Pink Floyd." — Robbie Mackey, October 7, 2008

Iron Man – Directed by Jon Favreau

I like Robert Downey Jr. I have liked him since he had that crusty mouth in *Less Than Zero.* Now that he's cleaned up, well, I didn't think I'd like him, but he rules! *Iron Man* is full of action, not too much mushy stuff, and the effects are amazing. All hail Jon Favreau! (you had me at *Elf.*)

Tip: *Don't knock it 'til you've tried it.*

GOMEZ COMES ALIVE!

Musician, Deejay, Amoeba Blogger & Latin Music Buyer for the Hollywood store.

Bronx River Parkway – *San Sebastian 152* (TRUTH & SOUL)

New York and Puerto Rican heads come together to make one of the toughest Salsa & Soul albums since the days that Raphael Cortijo and Ismael Riviera ruled the earth. It's Salsa with attitude, Boogaloo with brilliance and soul con sabor. A must for fans of funk as well as Fania era Salsa, Descarga and Boogaloo.

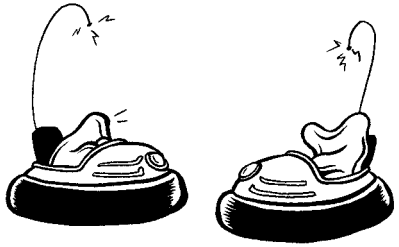
MAG All Stars – *The Best Peruvian Orchestras Of The '50s & '60s*

This is a compilation of artists from the MAG label from Peru in the '50s and '60s. The artists tried to emulate the Cuban artists that were popular at the time (Sonora Mantancera, Perez Prado and Tito Puente) but it came out raw and a little out. This is one of the reasons I like this comp so much. Twenty of the illest Mambos, Descargas, Cha Cha Cha's and Boogaloos you have ever heard. All the tracks have deep soul. Even though you might have heard the songs that they covered a million times, The MAG artist brings something new to each song. The artists of the MAG roster (Lucho Macedo, Coco Lagos, The Swing Maker Band and Melcochita y su Karamanduca) aren't household names outside of Peru, but they should be.

Monte Carlo 76 – *Marisela*

(EAST L.A. AFTER DARK)

Monte Carlo 76's second release, *Marisela*, merges the sweet sounds of West Coast soul with the vivid stories of barrio life. From love to gentrification, the album weaves together the harsh and beautiful tales that form the experience of living in the barrio. *Marisela*'s songs are so intimate, you will feel like you are riding shotgun with the band through the streets of East L.A. Don't sleep on this one!



Chancha Via Circuito – *Rodante*

(ZZK)

Chancha Via Circuito is the epitome of the Digital Cumbia sound. They take from both Techno and Cumbia Villera, Argentina's barrio style of Cumbia, and lead it to where it's never been before. It's where Kraftwerk meets Andres Landero, Damas Gratis meets Dub and it's where street Cumbia goes into outer space. A must for fans of the *ZZK Cumbia Digital Vol. 1* compilation.

La Excelencia – *Mi Tumbao Social*

(HANDLE WITH CARE)

Ever heard the expression, "If it ain't broke, don't fix it?" Somewhere during the eighties, Salsa took a turn for the worst. Salsa Romantica became the favorite of sappy Salsa fans and Merengue, Bachata and Reggaeton became more popular than Salsa. Many of the old timers died, retired or got stuck in the Latin Jazz scene. La Excelenia lives by that expression. They smash their way though the complacent sounds of the genre. This is no "Baja Fresh" fare, this is Hard Salsa at its finest, done with an almost punk attitude that guys like Willie Colon, Hector Lavoe and Ruben Blades once had. There are no Reggaeton remixes, ballads or guest vocal spots to bog this release down. It's all sweat and balls that will leave even the most experienced dancers out of breathe.

Tip: *Fav Clubs: Sonido @ The Little Temple, Mas Exitos @ The Verdugo, Soul In The Park @ Footsie's, Anda! @ Mal's Bar with deejays Ray Ricky Rivera, Gazoo, Mando Fever & yours truly!*

Fav Indie L.A bands: Very Be Careful, Buyepongo, Los Poets Del Norte, Olmeca, Geronimo, In Lak Kch, Quetzal, Las Ramonas, Ray Ricky Rivera, Chicano Batman, Quinto Sol, Quincy McCrary, ZocaloZue, Pachamama Este L.A., Ollin

Fav L.A. artists: Victor Gastelum, Vincent Valdez, Rage-One

Fav Shops: Teocintli, One Stop Culture and Imix Books

Fav Radio: Travel Tips For Aztlan 90.7 KPFK Saturday 10pm -12 am. & Anthony Valadez 89.9 KCRW Sunday Morning 3 a.m-6 a.m.

ED

Electronic. Dj/Artist/Label owner. Pro-tez records of Kompakt fame.

John Tejada – *Fabric 44* (FABRIC)

Fabric 44 is a heavily edited mix from Tejada, who is renowned for his studio prowess. Says the DJ, "I did edit the tracks quite a bit . . . to take it one step above of what you might hear when a DJ plays out. I wanted the whole track selection to turn into one piece of music: a techno-classical piece that has movements and moods from start to finish, similar to a conductor with a classical piece of music." The symphony will contain a host of tunes from Tejada's own Palette label, as well as two tunes from Hardwax in and among the rest. By the track number 15 he brings the mix to its major shift: the tracks get more stripped down and classic-sounding, right in line with the Orbital pick: M-Core's "Be Gene," Spooky's "Candy," and at the end, "Huba (Plaid's 15 Years Lost Remix)" by LJ Kruzer. This last one is a revealing choice: it has the four-four stomp you expect, but instead of sprinting to the finish line, it instead gives the mix's ending a meandering flavor — it drifts to an end rather than cruising. Sometimes you want to finish dancing by walking in the sun.

Sputnik 1– Various Artists (PRO-TEZ)

First CD compilation from Russian/American label Pro-Tez. Deep and Stunning! Very Limited Edition! Hurry up and get your hands on this audio rarity. Most highly recommended!! Classy, deep and trend-setting CD!! Must have !!

Efdemin – *Carry On, Pretend We're Not In The Room* (CURLE)

This is an astounding mix from Efdemin, particularly in such a tough medium, and his wide-ranging taste is unleashed expertly over 70 minutes. *Carry On* is educating, entertaining and essential. TIP!!

Carl Craig & Moritz von Oswald – *ReComposed*

(DEUTSCHE GRAMMOPHON)

Craig and von Oswald's recomposing Maurice Ravel and Modest Mussorgsky and is simply mesmerising. The texture and flow throughout is a highlight that more than makes up for the poor start even though the 40 odd minutes that follow the wasteful "Boléro" prologue are rarely dance floor material, as many might be hungry for. But the album does have passages that range from dubby electro to sweeping ambient and even a short run of brash minimal disco at the three quarter mark. While not likely to be as enduring or impactful as the originals, Craig and von Oswald's recompositions still make a fascinating and satisfying listen. Awesome!!

Swayzak – *Snowboarding in Argentina* (SWAYZAK)

Re-edited, re-mastered and re-released over ten years on from its first foray into retail outlets, Swayzak's *Snowboarding In Argentina* album makes a welcome return. Legend has it that the production duo set about making the record so as to fund their dream holiday on the Argentinean slopes. What they came up with remains a hugely impressive clicks+cuts-inspired take on microhouse, predating the similarly deep, dub-infused minimalism of Luomo. Originally this album arrived in two different versions, one for the UK and one for the US, so there's never really been anything that might have been described as a definitive edition. MUST HAVE !!

Eqd – *Eqd#2* (EQUALIZED)

The first 12" from the mysterious Equalised crew outta Berlin caused much speculation as to the identity of the unnamed producer of such a killer 12". Dub chords stretching out into the distance and a deadly DJ Sneak-cum-Maurizio skank and skip pattern that you'll have a problem sitting still to. Second release is an utterly badass and massively recommended dance starter. TIP!

Stalker – Directed by Andrei Tarkovsky

Everyone needs to see this!! It will blow your mind!!

Russian Ark – Directed by Aleksandr Sokurov

One shot no edits! Masterpiece about Russian art and history and relations with Europe! Unbelievable. The one and only disciple of Andrei Tarkovsky.

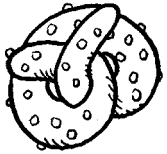
Come and See – Directed by Elem Klimov

A boy is unwillingly thrust into the atrocities of war in WWII Byelorussia, fighting for a hopelessly unequipped resistance movement against the ruthless German forces. Witnessing scenes of abject terror and accidentally surviving horrifying situations he loses his innocence and then his mind. Simply the best War movie of ALL TIMES period!! Watch it and you will agree with me!!

The 400 Blows – Directed by François Truffaut

AMAZING!! CLASSIC!! MUST SEE FILM!!

Tip:
Quadrant Nights in LA of Deep Dub Techno.
Hosted by Ed Vertov +John Tejada !!
Check our myspace page for updates.
www.myspace.com/protez



ERIC

Half Japanese – *Sing No Evil*

I don't believe we carry this new but we get it in used enough to put in here. Now when it comes to movies/music I'm the king of hyperbole (seriously, Larry King has got nothin' on me) but when I say Half Japanese is the greatest band of all time and this is the greatest album ever I'm not really exaggerating. It's almost indisputable fact.

Roy Harper – *Stormcock*

This album has finally been reissued and it couldn't have come at a better time. You see, when I was a Zeppelin-obsessed 7th grader listening to "Hats Off to (Roy) Harper" over and over, I wanted to hear this album so bad. But if I had heard it back then, I think the music would have blown my tiny little mind so much that I would have spit it out. So it must be the gods looking over me that it's now being re-released when I would be able to fully appreciate it.

The Found Footage Festival Vol. 1-3 – Directed by Joe Pickett, Nick Prueher, Geoff Haas

I tend to find real life much funnier than the movies which could mean bad news for me someday when I laugh at someone who could beat me up... which is everybody really. So it pleases me that these DVDs exist so I can laugh at people from the comfort (and safety) of my own home! *The Found Footage Festival* is a live show that showcases the best in public access, training videos, or even home videos found at thrift stores, garage sales, and the like. It's hysterical, absurd, and downright surreal. And where else will you find Orco from He-Man telling children with divorced parents, "There's nothing you can do to bring your parents back together."

The Wire Complete Series – Directed by David Simon and Ed Burns

I wish I was smart enough to talk about how good *The Wire* is. But, uh, I'm not. This show is so good that whenever I try to vocalize how much I love it, the only thing that comes out of my mouth is either, "Awesome!" or some sort of excitable gibberish. But luckily for us, the people who made *The Wire* are much smarter than me and have crafted quite possibly the greatest show ever. So great in fact that you've probably already seen it.

ERIC KENCH

Encounters At The End Of The World – Directed by Werner Herzog

Encounters At The End Of The World is a fascinating documentary by legendary German filmmaker Werner Herzog. In the documentary Herzog travels to Antarctica to film a small population of scientists and eccentrics that live there, and to explore the surrounding frozen wilderness. Herzog is not your conventional documentary filmmaker; he often incorporates many different filmmaking styles into his work and this film is equal parts nature documentary, comedy, tragedy, philosophical essay, and science-fiction film. Herzog has an uncanny talent for capturing images that appear to be bizarre, hilarious, and foreign to the viewer, while at the same time seeming somehow familiar, honest and beautiful. It's like cinematic poetry. This is beautifully captured in the film when the trainees are walking blind through the snow with buckets on their heads, or when the tiny organisms float by in the underwater ice cathedrals. My favorite sequence is one with an insane penguin, Herzog's quintessential mad hero of rebellion who breaks away from the pack and travels into the unknown, an impossible journey that will certainly take his life. It's somehow hilarious, heartbreaking, and profoundly mystifying: pure Herzog. *Encounters At The End Of The World* is one of Herzog's grandest statements, and the most entertaining thing about the film is how he makes that statement. Watch this film and then go watch all of Herzog's other films; they just might send you on a mad journey of your own.

Mister Lonely – Directed by Harmony Korine

"I don't know if you know what it is like to want to be someone else? To not want to look like you look, to go completely unnoticed. I have always wanted to be someone else..." *Mister Lonely* is a film about wanting to become the person you secretly want to be, the person you see in other people and want to be like, your fantasy you. The lead character in *Mister Lonely* is a Michael Jackson impersonator. At the beginning of the film he is living in Paris and performing on the streets and in nursing homes for the elderly. He feels utterly lost and alone in his life until a chance encounter with a Marilyn Monroe impersonator sends him on a journey to a commune for celebrity impersonators located in the Scottish Highlands. The rest of the plot is ineffably strange and beautiful. What I loved about this film was that its characters are so innocently naïve and hopeful. They are misfits that have been relegated to the fringe of society. But through faith and perseverance they have bonded together to create a loving surrogate family where everyone is accepted for who they are. It's incredibly touching the way the filmmaker reveals in his characters the longing that we all feel inside ourselves to become someone else, the person we really are inside, and to be fully accepted for whomever that might be. It takes incredible faith to believe that such things are possible, but as Werner Herzog's character in the film says, "a little faith can take us a long way," and this film is overflowing with it.

Daniel Johnston – *High Wire Music*

Hermann Hesse prefaced his novel *Steppenwolf* with the declaration "For Madmen Only," and Daniel Johnston's recently re-released album 1990 should come with the same warning. There's really nothing else like this in Daniel Johnston's catalog and it makes me wonder what brought this on and where did this record come from? How could a man who was known for writing playful, naïve love songs produce such a broken and desperate statement? To get an idea of how this album came about, it is necessary to know a little bit about Johnston's life at the time this album was made. In the mid 1980's, Johnston had a mental breakdown and was committed to a mental hospital in his home state of West Virginia. After getting some much-needed help and the right dose of psychiatric medication, he was invited to New York City to make an album with indie music producer Kramer. With hopes of becoming as big as the Beatles, Johnston headed to NYC to record a new album of songs. But during the recording of the album Johnston started to unravel emotionally. It didn't help that he stopped taking his meds, which led to him fleeing the concerned members of Sonic Youth, taking up residence in a homeless shelter, and threatening those who suggested calling his parents. But over the course of his short time in NYC, Johnston probably produced the most beautifully moving songs and performances of his career. 1990 comes off like a dark night of the soul. In this album Johnston is dealing with some extremely heavy issues.

The album can be seen as a kind of journey. In it Johnston tells us of his ambition to become a famous musician and how this hunger for fame lead him off the path of God and down the path of the Devil. As each song unfolds it's as though Johnston is traveling further and further into Hell. At the start of the album he is reflecting on his life as he slowly descends into the underworld. The first song is

"Devil's Town." In it Johnston seems to be haunted by memories of how he unknowingly entered into the Devil's realm, befriended the vampires that lived there, and soon became a vampire himself. The next song, "Spirit World Rising," with its pulsating droning drums and guitar, feels like a descent into a deep dark cavern. By the third song, he's reflecting on his past actions, and in one of the saddest, most heart-breaking moments on the album Johnston calls out to his lost one true love, Laura, and confesses that he has "held the hand of the Devil." In almost every song feelings of guilt, temptation, and betrayal appear to be torturing Johnston almost to the point of hopelessness. Throughout the album Johnston describes a world where devils torment him, memories haunt him, and darkness surrounds him. But he also manages to send out prayers into the darkness, asking for strength, guidance, and redemption. In the hymnal "Lord Give Me Hope," Johnston sings "Lord, hear my prayer/ for I've fallen by the way/ I know that I was wrong/ and I'm scared." In "Something's Last A Long Time" Johnston is haunted by insane memory. In one of his most beautiful piano melodies, Johnston sings to the picture of a lost love about how time comes and goes and yet she remains in his mind. This is a song about how memories linger and how we cling to these memories, as devastating as they can be. After explaining that "it's funny, but it's true / and it's true, but it's not funny," Johnston concludes that some things unfortunately "last a lifetime." In "Don't Play Cards With Satan" Johnston confronts Satan himself. In a stark and chilling live performance Johnston sings of being lured into the woods to play a forsaken game of cards with Satan. This is truly the scariest moment on the album as Johnston seems possessed in his performance, screaming "SATAN" at the top of his lungs over and over again at the song's unraveling end. But from the darkness comes the dawn and Johnston's dark night of the soul is brightened by the weary hopefulness of "True Love Will Find You In The End." The beautiful yet delicate melody supports a simple poetic lyric, giving the song an almost hymn-like quality. This is a true song about love and faith, and Johnston sings it with a soothing optimism. A spirited cover of the Beatles "Got To Get You Into My Life" continues "True Love's" optimism with some added determination, but the final three songs of the album return to Johnston's bleak state of mind. They are the final act and can be seen as a summation of his spiritual outlook on his life. In "Careless Soul," Johnston sings of death and how careless souls should "heed the warning" for they could be called by God at any moment. Halfway through the song he breaks down crying, meditating on how sad it is to face the judgment of God. Johnston ends his journey in the "Funeral Home." He's descended into Hell, confronted the Devil, overcome him, and made it out alive. But he hasn't made it all the way back to the land of the living. Johnston is stranded at the funeral home, a purgatory-like location where he exuberantly sings about how he's "got a coffin shiny and black/ I'm going to the funeral and I'm never coming back." The last song on the album plays as a coda, the Christian hymn "Softly and Tenderly." Sung by Johnston's local church parish the recording has an impromptu lo-fi quality that gives the song a distant and dreamlike quality. The voices are coming from some celestial perch, delicately comforting and calling the weary sinners home; "softly and tenderly Jesus is calling, calling for you and for me, softly and tenderly Jesus is calling, calling oh sinner come home, you who are weary come home."

1990 is available again on CD and has recently been remastered with new liner notes from the producer Kramer, along with five additional bonus demo tracks. The remastering sounds great and the liner notes and bonus tracks give an added insight into the making of the album. It's currently available now at Amoeba Music... For Madmen Only.

Patti Smith and Kevin Shields – *The Coral Sea* (TBC)

The Coral Sea is a poem Smith wrote for a close friend that passed away. She performs it live here with Kevin Shields of My Bloody Valentine. Playing an assortment of instruments, Shields creates a dense dream-scape for Smith's hallucinatory, moving verse. It really is mesmerizing, especially the final track "Litany." Check it out.

Paranoid Park – Directed by Gus Van Sant

I really loved this Gus Van Sant film. It's about a young teen who wants to hangout at the local skate park, but in doing so he experiences a life changing accident. This is another one of Van Sant's dreamy, meditative character studies, like his previous films *Last Days* and *Elephant*. In this film he captures that middle school state of mind like no other director has. Watch this movie and let it cast its spell on you.

Bee Gees – *Odessa* [Deluxe Edition] (REPRISE)

The Bee Gees' music from the 1960s is amazing and this is by far their best album from that period. I'd say this album's their "Mt. Everest," it's epic, sweeping, gorgeous, and it has recently been re-mastered and re-released in a three disc set. Forget what you know of the Bee Gees of the disco '70s, and have your mind blown by this psychedelic, symphonic masterpiece.

The New World - The Extended Cut – Directed by Terrence Malick

The extended cut of Terrence Malick's 2005 film has an extra 30 minutes of footage that only adds to the films depth and beauty. No one makes films the way Terrence Malick does. Buy this film and let yourself get lost in his world.

HEATHER L

Let The Right One In – Directed by Tomas Alfredson

This was easily one of my favorite films of last year. This Swedish vampire flick is a coming of age tale that has its gory moments, but is undeniably charming. A lonely, persecuted pre-teen befriends his new neighbor, an unusual girl who just happens to be a vampire. The two provide each other with the companionship both are so obviously lacking and this results in the two coming to each other's defense in rather unique ways (the swimming pool scene is AMAZING). Blood, body parts, housecat attacks all intertwined in a love story — good stuff indeed.

It's Always Sunny In Philadelphia Season 3

Best show on television — period. We talk about this show A LOT at Amoeba. We are also quite fond of Artemis. Highlights of *Season 3* DVD: Electric Dream Machine performing "Dayman" — perhaps the best song ever written? "Dumpster Baby." "The Gang Dances Their Ass Off." "The Gang Gets Invincible."

Summer Heights High – Directed by Stuart McDonald

This mockumentary series about life at an Australian high school stars comedian, Chris Lilley. Chris portrays three different characters: Ja'mie King, a privileged private school transfer student; Jonah, a troubled and disobedient teen; and Mr. G, the Drama teacher. Lilley is so adept and hilarious at his portrayal of these characters, you forget it's him. Warning: This series will have you singing "she's a naughty girl with a bad habit, bad habit for drugs" and tagging "dicktation."

Dan Auerbach – *Keep It Hid*

(NONESUCH RECORDS)

A soulful, more subdued effort from the singer/guitar player of The Black Keys. Does not disappoint!

IAN

Endless Boogie – *Focus Level*

(NO QUARTER)

Take a bunch of Rolling Stones, mix it with some Led Zeppelin and some Pink Floyd, then throw in some heavy psych and some Spacemen 3 and even a dash of ZZ Top and you get Endless Boogie. No 3 minute radio songs here, just a great album to listen to and really dig your teeth into.

Bison B.C. – *Quiet Earth*

(METAL BLADE)

Wow, hard and heavy just like I like it. Great playing, not your typical Sabbathy type songs that you would expect from the name. Lots of change ups within the songs and it harkens back to some good old thrash metal mixed with a good amount of doom and gloom. This will raise your jaded eyebrows.

Lucifer's Friend – *Lucifer's Friend*

(SPV)

A reissue you just need to own if you are a fan of Deep Purple, Uriah Heep, and heavy metal in general. This is a classic album, a forerunner of what would turn into early heavy metal. Released in 1973, this German band featured a British singer, John Lawton, who does some amazing wailing vocals on this. Heavy organ drives this masterpiece. Krautrock at its best.

Zero Boys – *Vicious Circle*

(SECRETLY CANADIAN)

Reissue of a truly great American punk album, long out of print. This whole album is classic punk mixed with hardcore. Though Indianapolis may not be remembered for much when it comes to music, it produced the Zero Boys. Recorded in just 2 days and released in 1982 originally this album just smokes. A requirement for any punk rock collection, one of the best Midwest punk releases ever.

Dust – *Hard Attack*

(REPERTOIRE)

American prog psych proto metal. This was the second and final album from Dust; they would later merge with another band on their same label to form Stories. Another forerunner of heavy metal this album was originally released in 1972. Features Frazetta artwork. Dust was made up of Marc Bell (who would go on to Richard Hell and the Voidoids and then the Ramones), Richie Wise, and Kenny Aaronson (who would later go on to HSAS and Stories as well as playing with Rick Derringer, Foghat, and many others). This is classic American hard psych, for fans of Mountain, Deep Purple, and Cream.

JAMIE S.

Associate of Fanny Davis, Liza Hempstock, and Marie Laveau!

Janelle Monae – *Metropolis: The Chase Suite (Special Edition)*

(BAD BOY / WONDALAND)

Whoa, where even to begin with this one! O.K., I haven't been this excited by a new artist in probably four years! *The Chase Suite* has a theatrical feel to it, with choral, string, and horn arrangements that sometimes do make the songs sound as if they are from a musical. And songs are based on the story of Cindi Mayweather, an android who has fallen in love with a human and is now being hunted down by others in her society who feel she must be disassembled for this malfunction. And though robot characters have been used so often before to show how society can be cold and dehumanizing, (according to Allmusic, the album's title is a reference to the 1920s Fritz Lang film) Ms. Monae uses the robot/alien metaphor to great effect to address the many levels of inequality and cold heartedness that one can find in the world. AND with her cleverness, strong positive personality, and songbird's voice that is a delight to listen to, she makes thinking FUN, even about uncomfortable topics. She's been compared to Andre 3000 (Big Boi of OutKast was an early fan of hers when she was performing in Atlanta), and you can hear why on the album's first 2 songs. They have a simple "Hey Ya" rock beat, some Farfisa organ adding a 1960s/1980s sound, and the giddy feel of a hit top-forty song that can't be stopped cause it's so catchy. The next full song uses a stripped down arrangement of only Shirley Bassey "Goldfinger" style dramatic horn riff, some resolved, strong Odetta-ish "Lord have mercys," plus a jazzy bass line as the song's anchor, asking "are we really living or just walking dead?" when people turn to drug abuse and material possessions for their source of happiness. Then the song "Mr. President" begins with a smooth 70s soul sound, simple horns and warm bright guitar. This song reminds me a bit of Harold Melvin and the Bluenotes' "Wake Up Everybody." (Whoa, in the previous song, she even says, "Daydreamers, wake up.") Ms. Monae very respectfully asks the president to please remember the problems we are facing: war & the lack of funding for education, the A.I.D.S. pandemic, and a failing economy, and to lead the U.S. "with your heart & not your pride." Remember, this song was written addressing ex-President Bush, so the lack of frustration and anger from Ms. Monae shows an inspiring optimism. I'd say the over-riding message of this CD is a reminder for us: "Be courageous — love no matter what."

P.S. Be sure to look up her video to "Many Moons" on YouTube. Again, it will remind you of the "Hey Ya" video. Ms. Monae plays many characters in the video, all the same "9000" model of android, she has a great sharp/quirky sense of style (cute saddle oxfords!) and there's those English horseback riding/jockey inspired costumes. Oh, also, if you buy the vinyl, it's red and you get 1 extra track, a different mix of "Violet Stars Happy Hunting!!!" + a CD copy.

Eagle Nebula – *Cosmic Headphones* (EPISTROPHIK PEACH SOUND)

"Some call it strange, some call it spiritual," Georgia Ann Muldrow raps on her new album, *Cosmic Headphones*. Well, yes, but what's strange is that this is a Hip-Hop recording brimming with good vibes and even better intentions. For too long, I'm afraid, Hip-Hop has been used to carry the message, "I'm making bank, so f- y'all!" Ms. Muldrow's album is the antidote to all that foolishness. She leads by example, explaining how she sees each day as a fresh start on the song "Daily Debut." In her easygoing realm of Hip-Hop, the accomplishments she boasts and fantasizes about are putting a stop to war by making soldiers hug one another and finding a cure for A.I.D.S. And the music is FUNKY with buzzy programmed basslines, handclaps, and sunny, bell or organ-like keyboard sounds. Her music is laid back, a slow and swaying groove that always reminds me of Funkadelic. She also pays tribute to the genre of Hip-hop by writing a song about how important the music form is to her and how it will always be around. Her lyrics are SO positive and uplifting that they caused my rather sour roommate to open my door last night and complain, "What are you DOING listening to socially conscious Hip-Hop at 2:00 in the morning?" Well, I say, any help I can get to be a lighthearted yet compassionate person I will gladly listen to! And she does open the album with the down to earth aknowledgement "Do you sometimes find life hard and unbearable?" Her lyrics aren't escapist or preachy, just some solid advice and reminders on how to keep going. She uses a great sense of humor and creative (and polite) choice of words to keep her outlook determinedly lighthearted. There are a couple of songs about more trivial current trends too, like "Celebrity Stylist" and "Ether Cash," about starting an eBay store. She and band co-member, the fabulous Dudley Perkins, have the most natural way of transcribing the thoughts in their minds into uncensored communication with the rest of us, very free and honest, we know their fears, pains, joys, and silliness. After listening to their records you really feel like you have made a new friend. Thanks, Eagle Nebula, for being so playful and profound.

Galt MacDermot/Gerome Ragni/James Rado – *Hair [O.C.R. Broadway Deluxe Collector's Edition]*

(RCA)

Here's my "one from the vaults" recommendation. I never bothered to listen to this album, having decided that I don't care for musicals and that I knew the ubiquitous songs already: "Aquarius," "Hair," and "Let the Sunshine In." And having decided that once a production makes it to Broadway, there can't be much counter-culture left in it. I can't believe all the good songs I was missing: "Ain't Got No," "Where Do I Go," the protest songs, "Air" and "Dead End," the truly funny teen rebel song, "Going Down," comparing being expelled from high school to Lucifer's fall from heaven, the stately and beautiful, "Easy to Be Hard," and the hilarious flag-waver parody, "Don't Put It Down." And the wistful "Frank Mills," a song any girl in love and missing her man can relate to. My earlier bias against the play being an outsider's imitation of hippie lifestyle started to fade away, as I found myself connecting strongly to the lyrics. The characters seem so real to me, I started picturing what Claude, Sheila, Berger and the others looked like. I knew what they were going through. Then I read up on the musical, and it turns out that the two creators, Gerome Ragni and James Rado, were in their 20s and were actors in the play themselves; they wanted to make a performance explaining their own East Village hippie youth culture. They envisioned the play as loosely structured, more of a spontaneous "happening" as new songs and scenes were written, and old ones left out. But you can read all about it too, if you get this great deluxe edition two disc set, with the essential addition (remember some songs were dropped or added for the Broadway play) of the 1967 off-Broadway production as a whole bonus disc, along with an interview with the inspiring and innovative Canadian composer, Mr. Galt MacDermot. He wanted to make the music sound less like the guitar rock that was on the radio, but still have a youthful, soulful feel that would work with teenagers singing it. He started describing the music as, "no it's not rock'n'roll, it's funk," years before funk became a recognized style. Just last summer, for its 40th anniversary, *Hair* was revived by the New York Shakespeare Festival, the original producers of the play. It enjoyed a successful and extended run, with the possibility of the production traveling to other cities. The lasting greatness of this play is that it does allow one to travel back and get a feel for the late 1960s, all the innovations and conflicts, and realize we're still dealing with a lot of the same difficult issues addressed in *Hair*. And its not just a play about hippies, but about anyone becoming an adult in America.

P.S. If you check the vinyl in the Soundtrack section of the store, you may well come across the off-Broadway version of *Hair*. The cool cover has Mr. Ragni and Mr. Rado posing with 1880s photos of Native Americans, and this record will be priced at $1.00!

Neil Young – *Sugar Mountain: Live at Canterbury House 1968*

(REPRISE)

O.K., I am admittedly a huge fan, so I've got to explain how this collection of songs taken from a two night booking at a small club is something special that you NEED to hear. Simply, it's the setting in time and space: a college town solo acoustic show after the recent dissolution of Mr. Young's success with his rock band Buffalo Springfield. He seems relieved to not have to be a top-forty pop star, but also a bit stunned at not having the success he worked hard for and perks that went along with it, things he thought he always wanted. He has a self-deprecating sense of humor, apologizing for not combing his hair and for not having any lighthearted songs, labelling all of his as "downers." He wants to come across as easygoing, but his between song stories reveal a busy, restless mind, full of bright questions and observations as well as the self-consciousness of a sensitive young man, only 23. He's just too nervous and hardworking to be a starry eyed flower child. Dissatisfied with his selection of songs he declares, "I'm going to go home and just work on new songs for a month!" Although his frankness, nervousness and thick, kinda nerdy Canadian accent add even more to an already endearing demeanor. So, we find Mr. Young at the crossroads, a place where stories begin. Incredibly, once he starts playing, all sense of self-doubt and awkwardness disappear as he really goes into the song, feeling right at home with the difficult emotions of longing, sadness, and lonliness. He seems able to forget about the audience while he's performing. Never have his remarkable, archetype-invoking lyrics sounded more powerful than on this CD. I'm thinking specifically of the songs, "Old Laughing Lady," "The Loner," "Last Trip to Tulsa," (a song which in the past I've considered too meander-y), "If I Could Have Her Tonight" and of course "Sugar Mountain." This CD points the way to Mr. Young's oncoming success, an intimate document of a young genius at work and undeniably on his way.

Obsession – Various Artists (BULLY)

This is a psychedelic compilation of music primarily from Brazil, but includes bands from Argentina, Uruguay, and Peru as well as three Turkish bands and one from India. Recording dates are from 1967-1973, falling into the range of my personal golden age of music timeline. There are some wild, fuzzed out numbers here, along with sweeter stuff featuring dreamy harmonies. You'll also hear some amazing beats. A majority of the bands are little known today, so this collection of freaked-out, funky gems is itself a treasure. It comes with easy-to-read, informative liner notes featuring the album art or band photo above a song's description. If you like Tropicalia artists, Santana, El Chicano, and/or Middle Eastern Rock, or Madlib, chances are you need this CD. Brought to you by Mike Davis of Academy records and DJ Signify out of NYC.

JAVIER JOHNSTON-MARQUEZ

Have you looked at your television lately? What's going on? Why did television get so darn good in the '00s? Bush? Thatcher made British comics good, it stands to reason Bush could do the same to TV. There does seem to be a bit of a dark undercurrent to all the shows I've listed here. Actually, they're all almost relentlessly, shamefully dark. Also, they're all available on majestic DVD, upstairs on the majestic MEZZANINE right here at MAJESTIC AMOEBA HOLLYWOOD!

Mad Men

How many critics need to tell you to watch this show before you actually sit down and do it? Yeah, it's a little slow, but slow things pay off. Like a spaghetti western. Or graduate school. It's light on overt plot development and heavy on mood and subtext, but that mood and subtext are an effective, biting indictment of the misogynist, capitalist era it's focused upon (an era in which, some would argue, we still live). The acting is mostly presence, but most of the actors have the type of burning presence you just plum don't see anymore. Also, I want Don Draper to be my boyfriend. Yeah, I know he's married and I know he has other mistresses and he can be a little cold sometimes and I know we're both heterosexual and I'm a record store clerk and he's a fictional character and yadda yadda yadda. All I know is that when I'm in his arms I feel safe.

The Wire

Going from a show that is nearly all mood and not much plot to a show that's plot is so thick you could choke to death on it, *The Wire* has an absolute lock on the over-saturated crime-show genre. The plot has the delicate grace of a ballet, with extra care put in to highlight the mercurial, fragile nature of the pursuit of justice in an unjust universe. As complicated as the plot is, it never seems to get lost in the shuffle of the surprisingly large number of characters and believable emotional lives that the writers juggle every episode. It's tailor made for the DVD format, as you'll find yourself popping in disc after disc in marathon sessions of made-for-HBO crime drama goodness. Also, I want Stringer Bell to be my boyfriend.

Battlestar Galactica

"Dude, you should totally be watching *Battlestar Galactica*. It's a really smart show." "Of course it's smart, it's for nerds." "What? No, it's not for nerds! It's got everything. Melodrama, humor, sex, political intrigue, topical metaphor, betrayal, space, explosions, robots...the acting is great, the dialogue is realistic, the special effects are really impressive and the writing is perfect. The plot goes places you don't expect it to and they can explore moral and political questions that other shows won't, because people think it's just nerd stuff for nerds and they don't pay attention to what the writers are actually saying. Besides, I love it and I'm not a nerd." "How much money did you spend on comic books last month?" "About two hundred dollars. Oops, my nose is bleeding."

The Marvelous Misadventures of Flapjack

What is wrong with kids these days? Either the age of information has permanently fried their minds and they're all completely and hopelessly insane, or they all have amazing senses of humor. As long as I get to watch their cartoons, however, I couldn't care less. Flapjack is a prospective adventurer, apprenticed to a grizzled, blue seaman/candy addict named K'nuckles who is searching for a sort of sailor's paradise named "Candied Island." The harbor in which they live is populated by a cast of ruthless, ugly sailors. It's an ugly show. Flapjack is the only character not animated to highlight his worst features. He's the sole innocent in a cast full of bastards and his naivete reminds me of a certain character from a novel by Voltaire ("CANDIED Island" sounds a lot like "CANDIDE Island")...The animation reminds me of the Ren & Stimpy close-ups; it's all eye crust and dandruff and cellulite and pores and body hair. It should make you a little queasy at first and I don't recommend it on a shaky stomach, but the writing and voice acting are so hilarious, you'll forget all about Spongebob Squarepants soon enough.

House

I love this show. It's a formula exercise, but a good one. A person freaks out, health-wise, then goes to see House. House thinks it's one thing and starts treatment. The treatment helps for a second, then the patient gets worse. Omar Epps thinks it's lupus, House rules it out. Cuddy yells at House. House says something rude but funny to Cuddy. Repeat step two. House has a revelation while speaking to Wilson about an unrelated matter. The day is saved. So, formula, yeah, but House is so damn charming it makes you forget that you kind of already know what's going to happen, because you never know what rogue-ishly rude thing House is going to say next. That's why you tune in. He's hilarious. You know, I'm kind of like House. Except I'm not a genius doctor. Or that charming. But I am rude, sometimes. Probably too often. I should work on that. I don't want to offend anyone.

Tip: *Stay with your wife.*

COOPER

(I have a twin sister so if you think it's me it's probably not!) I am the country and metal music lovin', whisky swillin', pajama wearin', sometimes smokin', always cookin' cooper aka coops or coopy.

Neko Case – *Middle Cyclone* (ANTI)

Another gem from Neko Case. I'll be listening on the porch drinkin' some Wild Turkey. Wanna join me?

Foot Village – *Anti-Magic*

(UPSET DA RHYTHM/TOME/TOO PURE)
Four Drummers. Don't think tribal. Think drum shredding. Think punk. Don't think. Just buy it and, more importantly, see them live. Josh, Grace, Dan and Brian will totally rule your world. (If you go see them live be sure to bring a drum key. They're always losing them on the road!)

Paul McCartney – *Amoeba's Secret* (HEAR MUSIC)

Why? Cause I was there. And it was fuckin' amazing. And he kissed me.

Blancmange – *Mange Tout*

(EDSEL RECORDS UK)
This was one of my favorite records from the eighties. It sounds like it too. But that's a good thing. "See the Train" and "The Day Before You Came" are sublime.

Love is All – *A Hundred Things Keep Me Up At Night*

(WHAT'S YOUR RUPTURE?)
This CD reminds me of the time I crashed this party in the '80s, there was a huge line to the keg and these girls got up and started singing and playing. They were jumping around and kicking shit over and I loved them. I jumped around and moshed so much I got shin splints and a fat lip, just like what happened when I listened to this record. Love is All are from Sweden which makes me like them more. Cause who doesn't like Sweden? (The Danish of course! But screw the Danish.)

Alela Diane – *The Pirate's Gospel*

(NAMES)
This CD is for the hammock and kissing. It's chill folk music with a beautiful female singer. It's an older release but I just found it. It's hard to keep track.

Cool Kids – *Bake Sale*

(CHOCOLATE INDUSTRIES)
Phat beats and super old skool sound. It won't leave my CD playa. For realzzz.

Metalocalypse Season 2

Metal animation? Yes and it's dark and funny. Had this been around when I was a kid I would've FLIPPED OUT. My walls would've been covered in Dethklok posters instead of Duran Duran! Murderface is my favorite. What this says about me I have no idea. Get *Season 1* while you're at it.

Tip: *So you've come to Amoeba and you're a bit overwhelmed. This is understandable. There are thousands and thousands of CD's released per year; how do you make sense of it all? My tips for finding music you like:*
1. Pay attention to record labels. The artists you already have are on labels that hopefully have a good roster of stuff you might also like. So look for them when digging around.
2. Find a source that reviews the music you listen to. It might be a blog, a magazine, a newspaper or a website like Amoeba.com. What's important is that the source reviews music you actually listen to. They'll include stuff of the same character.
3. Ask your friends and if you hear something, ask! Most people are flattered that you want to check out something they're listening to.
4. GO TO SHOWS. Go to shows and invest in your music community. PAY THE COVER. DON'T BE A BABY. Seriously, music gets better when it is supported.

DBL-J

Wandering in a world of sound, I remove my ear plugs and take in the sweet vibrations, bringing a smile to my face.

David Byrne & Brian Eno – *Everything That Happens Will Happen Today* (TODO MUNDO)

First off, let me tell you that this album is nothing like Byrne & Eno's previous collaborative release *My Life in the Bush of Ghosts* [a nice recording though, some 20 years ago]. I hate to put it to you this way but I would have to say that *Everything That Happens Will Happen Today* lives more in the world of, dare I say, "adult contemporary wonder pop." I would also like to make the disclaimer that the world of adult contemporary music is something I shy away from whereas this album I warm up to frequently and is one of the best things I heard in the whole of last year! It is simple, spiritual, strange and subtle. Layered with acoustics, electrics and Byrne's signature soft-toned wail. All the things that make my musi-

cal aura glow with an intense repetitive blinking of "beep, beep, beep" [and that's before any Chai intake]. To punctuate my adoration of this album further I must tell you that I attended a concert for this album's tour at the Greek Theater on October 3, Frazetta 2008. In a word, "amazing." In two words, "really amazing." It had to be in the top five concert going experiences of my life. As a matter of fact I would refer to it as more of a performance than a concert. Everyone dressed in white from head to toe, Byrne, backup singers, band, all of them, pretty as a picket fence. They play, they sing. We like it. Two songs in, still liking it. Third song of the evening hits our senses and the modern dancers hit the stage. Two girls, one boy, all modern, very dancery. And yes, they too were adhering to the white dress code. By the end of the number not just the dancers in all their modernity were cutting a rug. Now Byrne, backup singers and dancers were all joined in the execution of a greater choreography [a performance] by songs end. There I was taking all of this delight in when nothing short of happy gratitude shot through me for having been present. Apparently, I was not the only one grateful for this moment because no sooner had the song ended than the entire audience simultaneously jumped to their feet and gave a very energetic standing ovation. Byrne, pleased by this response, smiled and thanked us. However, the applause didn't stop there. We kept "ovating." Thanks to the giant video screens to the left and right of the stage we could see the look on Byrne's face as mild bewilderment struck him. He mentioned something in surprise about "L.A. being jaded." Clearly we were showing him the counter example. It's nice to know that someone as seasoned as David Byrne can still be taken by surprise by a sea of fans at this point in his career. So I guess both Byrne and L.A. are not "so jaded." Pretty much we were glued to him with audio adhesive for the rest of the evening. Byrne, in turn, surprised us with no less than three encores. Each one greeted with as much warmth as the one before it. The tour didn't just encompass this newest release it covered multiple Byrne & Eno co-authored materials spanning solo endeavors and select works from the Talking Heads catalog as well. Also released this year from David Byrne was *Big Love Hymnal*. This is a soundtrack recording to the television series *Big Love*. Apparently D.B. referenced the subject matter of the show and made "fake hymns" to work this album out. Kinda nutty, kinda neat. I'd attend The First Church Of Byrne [F.C.B.] for sure.

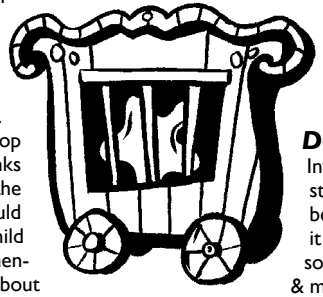
HEAR THESE SOUNDS!!!

[a list I made for you, the listener]: Pantha Du Prince – *This Bliss*; Black Moth Super Rainbow; Junior Boys – *So This Is Goodbye*; Morgan Geist – *Double Night Time*; Matmos – *Supreme Balloon*; Ratatat – *LP3*; Peter Gabriel; Roisin Murphy – *Overpowered*, Slagsmålsklubben – *Boss For Leader*; No Kids – *Come Into My House*; Lykke Li – *Youth Novels*; Bruce Haack; Philip Glass: – *Glass Box*; Casino Versus Japan – *Whole Numbers Play The Basics*; Muslim Gauze – *Suns Of Arqua Mixes*; David Holmes – *The Holy Pictures*; *Fabric 13*; Brazilian Girls – *New York City*; Crystal Castles; Fredrik – *Na Na Ni*; Hercules And Love Affair; Midnight Juggernauts – *Dystopia*; Of Montreal – *Skeletal Lamping*

Tip: *1> Make sure to take time to listen to the sounds that fill up your daily life. There are entire symphonies swirling around our ears every moment of every day. Take a moment and hear them out. They might just tell you something you need to hear.*

2> Support your local artists. They are doing their thing so give them some support and encouragement. It will do wonders for them and for you!!!

3> Also, if you like experimental film you should check out the REDCAT Theatre's experimental film night on Mondays. It's located on the lower opposite side of the Disney Concert Hall. Go to redcat.org for further details. I have viewed some very interesting sights there and will most likely continue to do so. Try it out.



JON

Erik Rico – *Double Feature*

Informed by the snares falling down stairs clatter of West London's bruk beat mosse, Erik Rico yapple dapples it with a singer's soul that the Brits sometimes miss. Full of mellow keys & melodies, the squishy slap of reverbed bap, it's bedecked in the retro tech of pre-Colombian cosmonauts, a rocket crafted from feathers and stone on "Welcome to the Space Age" and "Children of the Light," or the 8 track boomin' from the *Chariot of the Gods* on the spirit-salving "Peace of Mind," like Stevie's & Herbie's forward facing Prophet-cies from the seventies.

Dungen – *Bandhagen* (KEMADO)

Though much of Gustav Ejstes' (he who is and does Dungen) may evoke soundvisions of frolicking trollkin and Tolkienian bacchanals, buskin beclad ribaldry and dervishly whirling, flaxen haired frost giants' daughters, pagan and prelapsarian, flutes and lutes and endlessly delayed guitar, his first forays at beatery were Hip-Hop based. And though Bandhagen may not bear the sharp snap and bap of Diamond's drums or the ding of Premo's bells (though there's the wisty "ting" of what sounds like a gnomesize xylophone), maybe this the sound of rap de-Afronated, dilapidated, a weaving, shambling shambolic wooze, consciousness sludged, flowing like sizurp'd, betwixt the limbic regions of the day, before it shudders and starts fraying, each instrument drifting slowly into the infinite.

Frankmusik – *3 Little Words*

A virulently viral infectious confection, a vector infecting with a replicating meme, spreading an insidious signal that supplants logic circuits and subverts critical thoughts. Draped in syn/linn drums and tinny stabs it's a lite brite l.e.d. w.m.d, but scraped of all its glitzy gear, as with the "black gardenia" mix, it sits revealed as a sharp, plain paean to pain that shimmies between want and get.

DJ KO – *Picture This* (SHAMAN WORKS)

DJ KO, repping Street Smartz, from whence banged out the late '90s burner "Metal Thangs" (as bumped on Premo's NY Reality Check), keeps heads and dittys boppin with a "golden age" all stars massive (Diamond, OC [who killed it somethin lovely on the "Metal Thangs" refix], Masta Ace, Kweli, Wordsworth, John Robinson) and newer jacks (Skyzoo, Torae, Phonte, 9th Wonder, Black Milk, Elzhi) rocking it like the Y2K bug's still somethin to get you shook. Though it may take til the twenty tens revival to manifest what we can salvage from the epoch of the born cipher, bumps like "Ladder of Success," all celestial voices smudged into sweet noise, and "Someday," flipping classic don Donny vocal for a treatise on the inchoate promise of endless possibility, almost make you miss that blurry, undefined time before the Bush 2 era of terror when the only thing blowin up was your motorola pager and gitmo was just a strategy for stackin paper.

Pharcyde – *"Runnin'" (Phillipians Mix)* (DELICIOUS VINYL)

Word is bond, you will not improve on Dilla's refilibration of Getz' & Bonfa's "Saudade vem Correndo" for "Runnin'" ("correndo," "runnin," get it?), perfectly calibrated, saudade intact and impactful, longing left lengthy, the majorest minor bars of the whole cut, bobbing drums with the lagging kick, but the Phillipians mix appends a nice little stoney interlude to the end whilst underpinning Tre's verse with some loopy bloops that somehow still maintain the anomie.

The Passions – *I'm In Love With A German Film Star* (CHERRY RED)

This is not a sound that could spring from a sun-drenched land. Avid Mediterranean melancholaholics and studied Angeleno miserabilists, well-versed though they may be in the ways of the weepy, are geo-genetically incapable of connecting with the frigid, fog blown, seasonally affectively disordered core from whence wells The Passions' *I'm In Love with a German Film Star.* Guitar swathed in shimmering sheets of delay, bass thick and throbby, sung with an android's sangfroid, it's like Metropolis' robot Maria coolly swooning for Rotwang, free of the heart's machinations, circuits programmed for bloodless love.

Afta-I – *Time In Between*

(MELTING POT MUSIC)

We live in the AD (After Dilla) years. Stumbling beat, warm, furry lumbering bass, sputtering high hats, the feel of the finger on the pad, these are the forever echoes of his human, boomin system. Flying Lotus & the Brainfeeder mob, Hudson Mohawke, Super Smoky Soul, Jniero Jarel, & on & on til the break of dawn, fellow traficantes of that thick, stewy sound labor under the long shadow of the long gone. Messing with the same, smeary sonics, Afta-I sources space's tones, the squawk & static of dark matter, the quiddity, the thinging of interstellar material, where warmth isn't measured in degrees and waves move in a vacuum.

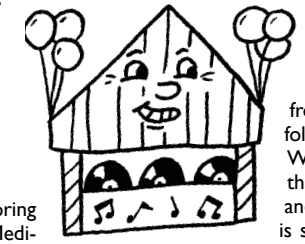
JOSH TAYLOR-FANTASTIC

boo-yah! just keeping it real for old people.

Quintron – *Too Thirsty 4 Love*

(RHINESTONE/GONER)

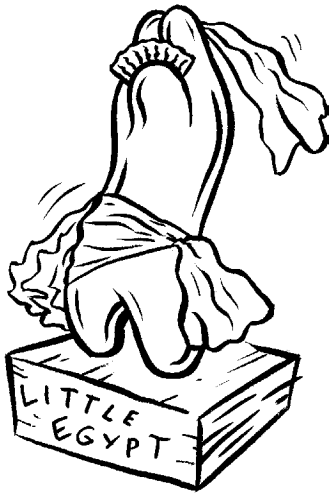
Holy crap! this is probably THE best record in the last year! i keep telling everyone this but no one believes me! maybe you will? seriously, i always liked MR. QUINTRON even though he hated me for calling him up and threating to cut off his fingers (it was a joke! his number was in the new orleans phone book under the name MR. QUINTRON, how could i NOT call?). where was i? oh yeah, i always loved the dude but this record brings it up about one thousand notches to an overall score of one billion on the awesome meter! this record is like taking the swamp into a jar, drinking it and bleeding pure voodoo out of your EYESSSSSSSS!!!!!!!!!!! sick!!!!!



Whitman – *White Sunrise*

(FOLKTALE/SHRIMPER)

Just as f'ed up as QUINTRON but in a totally different way. totally. pure from the guttural origins of doom-folk this forms a whole new level of Whoa-dog! these songs take forms that probably shouldn't be but they do and it's amazingly brilliant. WHITMAN is soft but ice cold! i was waiting FORRRREEEVVVEERR for this record to come out and now i can't stop listening to it! ugh! after you buy this record go see WHITMAN live at the smell or pehrspace cause it will cause you the greatest joy ever until he whips words at your joy bubble, shatters it along with your central nervous system. ah hell!! the art is nice too, the cover has a great bunny rabbit on it! i love bunnies! in fact that triggers a memory in my brain that perfectly discribes this album. ok, here it goes. as i kid i had a nice white bunny named cagney and one cold morning i woke up to feed her and



found six pink flesh globs in her cage. i thought that she had been attacked by a dog and was torn into bloody shreds. i looked again and saw that cagney was fine but the flesh globs were bloody, hairless and dead baby rabbits. my heart broke. yeah this record is like that.

Boredoms – *77 Boa Drums*

Yikes, this is a monster! where to start? 2 cds, 1 dvd and a book! yes! this cronicles one of the most amazing live shows ever to happen on planet earth, in fact it seems as if THE planet earth is giving a concert! 77 drummers on full kits playing on 07/07/07 at 7:07 pm eastern standard time. yeah it's amazing! the cds capture the sounds of the entire show and the dvd gives you a short taste (20 or so minutes) of what it looked like live. the book shows you all the players along with their drums! all of the music was planned out and structured so it's NOT what you might fear, a crazy hippy drum jam. oh no, this was CALCULATED! oh this is so beautiful! the BOREDOMS rule hard and this adds another mile in the sky on their mountain of awesomeness! climb it! CLIMB IT!! it's totally worth it!

Lazy Magnet – *Is Music Even Good?* (CORLEONE)

I can't even begin to understand how this album was made. seriously. Lazy Magnet is usually just this one dude named Jeremy Harris from the eastern side of the united states. but on this album he gets about 20 of his friends to help him out. some of his earlier releases have been folk, some have been noise and the last time i saw him live it was THE hardest metal i have ever heard. probably the best live band i have seen in years. it made LIGHTNING BOLT look like sergio mendez. but this cd is neither like the live show OR any of his past releases. this cd is a pure scramble of the highest of quality everything pieced together seamlessly into one giant A.D.D. injection. mr. harris has culled the finest of players giving spectacular performaces onto the great battlefield of music and he has won! LAZY MAGNET wins this year's super bowl!!!!!!

USAISAMONSTER – *Space Programs* (LOAD)

These dudes always deliver the greatest rock records of our time! when i listen to USAISAMONSTER records and/or see them live i get this crazy feeling. it's as if a membrane of musical mucus drops on my head and i can see EVERYTHING! i can see time, space and the math that makes the universe rolling. but the layer of mucus also strengthens my muscles and i could probably fight a brick wall and win. kinda like looking at the ocean at high tide and dreaming you could live under the sea with the glowing fish miles below the surface. this album rules! this band rules! USAISAMONSTER forever!!!!!!

Tip: *i would also like to suggest you check out all the awesomeness that goes on down at THE SMELL in lovely downtown los angeles. it's the greatest all ages venue this town has ever seen! about one million bands play there every year so don't miss out! www.thesmell.org. also take some time on monday nights to go to pehrspace for SEAN CARNAGE's amazing monday night shows! they are always the best in every way! the best night of the week for sure! www.seancarnage.com. oh yeah and go eat at A TASTE OF LIFE, the best vegan food ever! seriously check out the mac and cheese. pure awesomeness! www.atasteoflifellc.com. thanks! also remember that YOU RULE!!!*

KELLY

I work in New Rock and I am always looking for new music from the UK.

The Joy Formidable – *A Balloon Called Moaning* (PURE GROOVE)

Morrissey – *Years of Refusal* (LOST HIGHWAY)

Glasvegas – *Glasvegas* (SONY)

Chairlift – *Does You Inspire You* (KANINE RECORDS)

Franz Ferdindand – *Tonight: Franz Ferdinand* (SONY)

KRISTEN

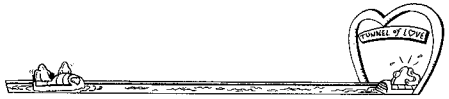
Blitzen Trapper – *Furr (Sub Pop)*

M Ward – *Hold Time* (MERGE RECORDS)

Neil Young – *Sugar Mountain: Live at Canterbuy House 1968* (REPRISE RECORDS)

Pavement – *Brighten the Corners: Nicene Creedence Edition* (MATADOR)

New Order – *Power Corruption & Lies (2CD Collectors Edition)* (RHINO)



KBA

I grew up in Washington State. I miss the trees.

The Earrings of Madame De... – Directed by Max Ophuls

Max Ophuls is easily one of the most eloquent and inventive storytellers to choose film as his medium and *The Earrings of Madame De...* is one of the finest examples of his brilliance. He moves his camera like no other director before or since and he is one of the few directors whose work Kubrick greatly admired.

Vengeance Is Mine – Directed by Shohei Imamura

This is the strangest story of a serial killer that I have ever seen. In fact I hesitate to call it a serial killer movie for the associations that you are undoubtedly making at the reference. Yes, there are scenes of brutal murder. No, they are not depicted in a manner intended to shock you (this isn't Argento), nor are they depicted from a clinical distance that invites you to hate yourself for watching (this isn't Kubrick). Murder just happens. Our killer gets a thrill out of it (most of the time), on par with getting laid, but the emphasis of this movie is on his relationships, how his lifestyle both affects them and is a response to them. Yeah, the killer is kind of an asshole, but what would you do if your wife and your dad were constantly fighting the urge to get it on?

The Films of Budd Boetticher [Box Set] – Directed by Budd Boetticher

This is a great set of westerns that should have been on DVD long ago but somehow never made it. This set chronicles the bulk of Boetticher's collaborations with Randolph Scott and their pairing is among the all time western greats (think Ford & Wayne and Mann & Stewart). The set includes a great documentary featuring the brash antics of Boetticher and many of his big name Hollywood fans gushing over his work (Tarantino, Eastwood, Schrader, Towne, Bogdanovich, Scorsese...). Films Included: *Tall T, Decision at Sundown, Buchanan Rides Alone, Ride Lonesome, Comanche Station.*

Wall•E – Directed by Andrew Stanton

It is hard to discuss this film for many without qualifying it by saying, "for a kids movie..." but I might suggest that what is truly remarkable about this movie is that it is a major release from a major Hollywood studio, and one that, yes, specializes in family fare. The last film that had a such a pessimistic, yet grounded vision of the future, *Idiocracy*, was completely buried upon its release and has yet to really find the audience it deserves. Common sense tells us that Hollywood doesn't want to tell its audience that they are an ignorant, over-consumptive waste of space destined for a disaster of their own making (the message seems in conflict with, "don't forget to hit the concession stand for more raw cookie dough balls and cola!"). *Wall•E* however brings the message to the masses. Though your average *Shrek* fan found it hella boring (they don't even talk for the first 20 minutes!) the Pixar feature with its heavyweight marketing push will find its way into many a home over the years and be a jagged pill to swallow for unsuspecting "consumers." There's also an excellent love story between the two lead robots that occurs almost completely without the use of dialog. Awesome.

TV On The Radio – *Dear Science* (INTERSCOPE)

Mad Men: Season 1 – Directed by Matthew Weiner

I don't have cable so, like the rest of you who still maneuver rabbit ears for the best picture, I need to wait until shows like this make it to DVD to experience what everyone has been talking about. Believe the hype! This show is fantastic and exceptionally cinematic. Not only is it exceedingly well written, but the acting is top notch and the art direction and cinematography place it in a class by itself. Nothing else on television is as rich or well made as *Mad Men.* I remember first assuming that is was an HBO show before seeing the AMC logo (it seems HBO passed on it . . .). After watching a couple of episodes my mistake was clearer — nothing on HBO has ever looked this good. *Season 2* is not available on DVD at the time of this writing, but I can't wait to get my hands on it.

Tip:
criterion.com/festival (watch free movies online every month)

amoeba.com/live-shows/videos/index.html
(shameless self promotion)

KYLE KYTE

Dungeon Engineer.

5 Signs – *Left Handed Acquisitions*
(ANODYNE ELECTRIC COMPANY)
a live hip hop production team from los angeles. Five mpc addicts and vinyl junkies that combined forces to create an album covering old school, dilla-esque, downtempo, new school, boom bap (and bipp), with nods to idm, funk, soul and classic rock. limited edition vinyl only release. get it.

School of Seven Bells – *Alpinisms*
(GHOSTLY INTERNATIONAL)
super lame they start the album with a track that's already sorta been released. but i suppose i only know that cause i'm obsessed with this new band from brooklyn which has the old secret machines guitarist (secret machines? ever heard of them? you sleeping on that shit or what?). also includes the much improved vocalists of on!air!library!, and by much improved i mean euphoric.

TV on the Radio – *Dear Science*
(INTERSCOPE RECORDS/ 4AD)
an excellent band should develop with subsequent releases. their music should mature, as the players become more experienced. such is life. such is dear science. tv on the radio. listen to it as much as you can. it's better than drugs and half as good as sex.

Beach House – *Devotion*
(CARPARK RECORDS)
it's nice when music is honest. it sucks when bands play live shows with laptops. beach house is melodic aka sleepy, and quaint aka beautiful. they live in a city of brick. and one day they'll sell enough concert tickets to kick the macbook to the curb.

Flying Lotus – *Los Angeles EP 2x3*
(WARP)
the second ep is not as strong as the first. but the concept continues, and i wait with bated breath the final chapter of flying lotus's los angelian opus. a well played moved which used the fortunate interest of warp to boom blast five discs of pure lotus satisfaction all across the world. i only wish the order of release had been in reverse.

Tip: *contemporary music is awesome. get with it. go to more shows. spend your money on art not convenience.*

LEN

Madness – *The Liberty Of Norton Folgate* (LUCKY SEVEN)
The great British Ska/Pop group Madness returns with an ambitious concept album. Part early Kinks, part Blur, but very much the Madness sound. Songs about life in London, with fresh pop hooks, and stellar production! CD/LP release due in mid-March.

Rockford Files-Season Six
The last season, and possibly the best! Check out the David Chase penned episodes, for many similarities to his later work on the *Sopranos*.

Mo-dettes – *The Story So Far*
(CHERRY RED)
Finally issued on CD with all their b-sides. If you took the Bodysnatchers & mixed them with Delta 5, you got the Mo-dettes!

Hawklords – *25 Years On*
(CHERRY RED)
Nice reissue of what was basically Hawkwind using a different name. Lead singer/writer Robert Calvert does some his best work here. Healthy dose of bonus tracks!

The Prisoner - Complete Collection
Re-watching this great series, to honor the passing of the legendary actor Patrick McGoohan.

LORI WILLIAMS

No-No-NoLorious

Fabric – Various Artists (FABRIC)
Want to know the hottest dance music out right now? One word: Fabric. You simply can't go wrong picking up any *FabricLive* or *Fabric* mix. This is the best curated electronic music series out there. Each one features totally different DJ's and styles, and they all consistently kick ass. Guaranteed to blow your underwear straight off. I'm saving my benjamins to fly to London just so I can go to this club… Some of my top faves: *FabricLive.24* Diplo (Electro, Baile Funk, Hip Hop Mashups), *FabricLive.32* Tayo (Dubstep!), *FabricLive.37* Caspa & Rusko (Dubstep!), *FabricLive.33* Spank Rock (Booty Electro Hop Pop Mashups [A.K.A. House Party!]), FabricLive.42 Freq Nasty (Dubstep, Bassline, Breaks). Bam!

A.R. Rahman – *Slumdog Millionaire* [Soundtrack] (INTERSCOPE)
This movie totally blew me away! Wow! The cinematography — the acting — the storyline — yes, I'm a sucker for a good old-fashioned love & overcoming all obstacles story — I absolutely loved every minute of it. We were sitting there watching the opening sequence & thinking, "you know what would be perfect right here? Some M.I.A." And just like magic, M.I.A.'s genre-bending sound fills our ears, fitting this story just like a glove. Her music perfectly captures the spirit of these kids — from the streets, doing whatever they have to do to make it — and these are not pitiable characters — they hustle like pros from a young age & they've got the swagger to match. These kids are exactly who M.I.A. makes her music for & about. This soundtrack has made A.R. Rahman my new favorite producer. Just like Cory Booker, A.R. Rahman likes to luxuriate in all the cultural deliciousness, blending that Indian percussion style that I love with everything else in the kitchen — electronic, hip hop, pop, hell, there's even some Spanish in there. A successful soundtrack should conjure up all the mental pictures & capture all the moods from the film, just like this. Break out yer notebooks y'all, class is in session!

Kanye West – *808s & Heartbreak*
(ROC-A-FELLA RECORDS)
Never in my life did I think I'd be positively reviewing a Kanye album. But this just goes to show you, good music can come from anywhere, so keep your mind open. The messenger doesn't have to be perfect for the message to be perfect. He seems to be coming straight from the heart on this one & I think that's why it resonates. You know it's good when you can't stop yourself from singing along with your iPod walking down the street, even though you look like a crazy person. The production is simple, but it's perfect; it sounds retro, not underdone. Even with the Auto-Tune vocals, no other album had me singing along as much as this one. Melody is king, and real emotion trumps studio tricks every time. Kanye brought it!!

Deadmau5 – *Random Album Title*
(ULTRA RECORDS)
The day this album came out this fine young woman came up to buy it from me & she was like, "I'm so excited to get this album! I've been waiting for it to come out!" And I was like, "Oh really? What kind of music is it?" Her: "House." Me: "Oh, uh huh…" And I thought, "House? Oh god, it's probably awful…" Months later I finally listened to it & I freaking love it! Now who's the asshole? Wherever you are mama, I'm sorry I doubted you. Yeah, this is house, but it doesn't hit any of those sugary-sweet high notes that make me want to run for the exits. It's impeccably crafted & grooves in the mid-range. This album totally takes me back to my San Francisco days… Four on the floor ain't dead y'all!

Diplo VS. Santogold – *Top Ranking (A Diplo Dub)*
(MAD GREASY/GROOVE DISTRIBUTION)
Diplo defines what is hot, year after year. As soon as I saw that he combined Santogold with Benga, I was done. Diplo is a top supplier of booty-popping inspiration. This album gives us plenty of Santogold, including my favorite remixes of her tracks not found on her album, mixed with hip hop, reggae, classic soul & pop, dancy indie rock & of course, dubstep! These other elements show all the sources Santogold draws from, and serve to highlight her awesomeness. Another perfect blend from Diplo.

Michna – *Magic Monday*
(GHOSTLY INT'L)
Perfect simplicity seems to be a theme for me this go-round. Happy little electro grooves with mellow hip hop style beats. I freaking love this album! It's the shyza! That's all the descriptiveness I have left. Just listen to it!

Tip: *The best way to experience Amoeba is like a walk on the beach. You never know what amazing sunset, beautiful shells, or a piece of driftwood you might find – what will the ocean offer up for you today? If you can spare an hour, come on in & stroll around, see what treasures may have washed up on our shores today…*

All of my recommendations I first heard playing in the store or were recommended to me by my coworkers. Keep your ears and eyes open and ask those employees what their favorites are right now. All we do is music all day long — we are an incredible resource for you & a good filter for the goodness.

Don't forget Last.fm & Pandora. And as soon as you can, attend a Pure Filth or SMOG event (myspace.com/purefilthdubstep, www.smogla.com.) It'll blow your mind!!

J. MARK BEAVER

"Jodie Foster is a delight!"
*— Liz Smith (*Cosmopolitan*) quoted on the VHS release of* Taxi Driver.

Tallest Man On Earth – *Shallow Grave* (MEXICAN SUMMER)
Kristian Matsson is a Swede obviously obsessed with Dylan and Pete Seeger and their ilk, but from beginning to end of this album he kills it! A compelling Dylan-esque whine, touches of atmosphere here and there, songwriting that echoes Bon Iver and Jenny Lewis. Banjo fans, get on board!

Grace Jones – *Hurricane*
(WALL OF SOUND)
It's been almost 30 years since Grace Jones un-

leashed the groove masterpiece *Warm Leatherette* onto the world, though there is little sense of that time gap listening to *Hurricane*. Effortless groove still bubbles under her easy, soothing murmur on "Well Well Well," and "William's Blood" drives along with the same passion as her classic "Hunter Gets Captured By The Game." Awesome.

James Yorkston – *When The Haar Rolls In* (DOMINO)

James Yorkston is a wordy Scot. There are lots and lots of things being said on his latest album, most of them about love and loneliness, but if they are going to be carried along by a lazy river as beautiful as the music here offers, I say, "just keep talking." This album is also offered in a 10" box that includes a triple 10", double CD and tote bag. The extras include an album of various musical fans covering his songs and another disc of electronic remixes that work surprisingly well.

Mount Eerie w/Julie Doiron & Fred Squire – *Lost Wisdom*

(SOUTHERN)

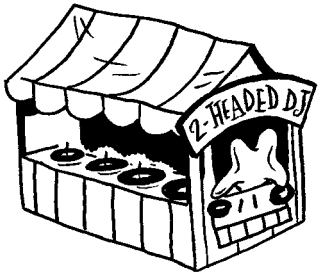
This music is so tentative it sometimes comes to a near standstill. Not too far afield from the work Bonnie "Prince" Billy and Dawn McCarthy did on *The Letting Go and Wai Notes, Lost Wisdom* weaves vulnerable folky melodies through spare guitar, vibes, shuffling sounds and the rattle of drumsticks. With 10 songs making up a mere 24 minutes, it's short and it's gorgeous.

Helena Espvall & Masaki Batoh – *Helena Espvall & Masaki Batoh*

(DRAG CITY)

Helena Espvall was born in Sweden, but is best known stateside from her work with Massachusetts' neo-folkies, Espers. Masaki Batoh is from the legendary Japanese psychedelic freak-folk group Ghost. Together, they have made a string-heavy and haunting collection of melodic meditations: Swedish & medieval traditionals, an American blues and an original or two.

Tip: *Go see shows at the Steve Allen Theater! (www.steveallentheater.com) They will blow your mind!*



MARYANN

mezznaut, mezzanite...mezzbian?

Andrew Bird – *Noble Beast*

Ray Lamontagne – *Gossip in the Grain*

I'm From Barcelona – *Who Killed Harry Houdini?*

Margot & The Nuclear So And Ao's – *Animal!* and *Not Animal*

these are two different albums. *animal!* is the version the band wanted to put out, while, *not animal* is the version the record company preferred. the albums share five songs, but the remaining songs make it well worth purchasing both. i believe *animal!* is only available on vinyl, so head back to aisle 5 and grab it.

Healamonster & Tarsier – *Cupcake Cave*

chances are, if you shop at amoeba often, you've noticed this cd on the waterfall while waiting in line. so next time you're in line, pick it up. you'll love it. for real.

The Wire: Complete Series

this is the only way to own *the wire*. trust me. this show is so addictive that you'll finish *season three* at 2 in the morning and go insane waiting for us to open at 10:30 the next morning to get *season four*. save yourself.

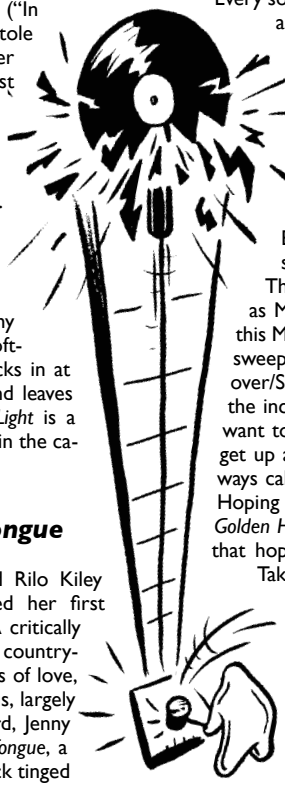
Tip: *myspace.com/consumingthearts - help keep the arts in schools. please.*

MICHAEL ROSAS

Music blogger, aspiring music-journalist, and....well, the "quiet" kid in used rock.

Antony & The Johnsons – *The Crying Light* (SECRETLY CANADIAN)

Here is the thing about Antony Hegarty: you either hate his voice and music or you love it. I'm of the latter. After a series of covers on soundtracks [*I'm Not There, Leonard Cohen: I'm Your Man*] and appearances on some of his contemporaries' records [*Volta* by Björk, the self-titled Hercules And Love Affair record] Antony released the *Another World EP*, a wonderful five song precursor to his third studio album *The Crying Light*. While his 2005 highly lauded Mercury Prize winning album *I Am A Bird Now* dealt with introspection and finding one's own voice, *The Crying Light* deals with themes of life and death, the present and future, and Mother Nature. Antony's Nina Simone-esque trembling vibrato soars over beautiful piano melodies and lush string arrangements throughout *The Crying Light.* Opener "Her Eyes Are Underneath The Ground" tells us of someone at one with themselves and nature ("In the garden, with my mother/I stole a flower/With my mother, in her power"). Elsewhere, on the earnest "Another World" the themes of life and death appear ("Still have too many dreams/Never seen the light/ I need another world/ A place where I can go"). Subsequently, on the beautiful melancholic closer "Everglade" we're met with a sense of acceptance for the natural world ("I'm home, my heart sobs in my veins/ But brains they play the softest games"). Even though it clocks in at less then forty-three minutes and leaves you wanting more, *The Crying Light* is a beautiful welcomed progression in the career of Antony & The Johnsons.



Jenny Lewis – *Acid Tongue*

(WARNER BROS.)

In 2006, indie rock darling and Rilo Kiley songstress Jenny Lewis released her first solo endeavor *Rabbit Fur Coat*. A critically acclaimed album full of soulful, country-tinged songs dealing with themes of love, and loss. After a brief solo-hiatus, largely due to a new Rilo Kiley record, Jenny Lewis has returned with *Acid Tongue*, a more mature soulful-country/rock tinged album than its predecessor. While there are similarities in sound, there are several differences that set them apart. For one, gone are the bluegrass harmonies of the Watson Twins, replaced with a rich soulful/rock sound that is the product of the live band setting in which the album was recorded. That's not all. Another significant difference between them is the more confident vocal delivery & songwriting of Jenny Lewis on this record. Not to mention, the several appearances made by friends and family on this new record. Everyone from Elvis Costello, Chris Robinson, Johnathan Rice, She & Him, as well as her father and sister lend their musical talents. *Acid Tongue* is filled with eclectic songs like the album opener "Black Sand" with its wistful lyrics ("Who's going to love you buried underground?"), the eight-minute barroom-stomper "Next Messiah" with its back-and-forth between Lewis and Rice ("I want to tell you I love you/I'm going to go out for a walk"), the gorgeously raw title track "Acid Tongue" with its introspective lyrics ("We were unlucky in love, but I'd do it all again"), and the poignant closer "Sing A Song For Them." Each song illustrates a wide array of musical influences and makes *Acid Tongue* a solid sophomore solo-effort from Rilo Kiley front woman Jenny Lewis.

Golden Holy – *Golden Holy*

(ROME PLOW)

Every so often, a band comes out of nowhere with an album that leaves an immediate impression on you. Golden Holy is one of those bands. Released at the tail end of 2008, *Golden Holy* is the debut album from the Portland, Oregon residents of the same name. *Golden Holy* is an album full of indie-rock and indie-pop gems. From album opener "Stop Telling Ghost Stories" with its Efterklang-esque indie-pop ("We all sat beside you/We all sat beside you") to "Maybe The Books Were Wrong" which starts of as Múm-esque song, but quickly morphs into this Múm-Arcade Fire lovechild of a song with a sweeping chorus ("Aging and ashes scattered all over/Say goodbye to all you know"). Elsewhere, the incredible "Sons Of Dreams" will make you want to tap your feet, shake your hips, and well, get up and dance. ("Waiting by your bedside/Always calling your way/Looking out your window/ Hoping someone sees you.") Plain and simple, *Golden Holy* is a superb debut album from a band that hopefully we'll see and hear a lot more of. Take notice world.

Animal Collective – *Merriweather Post Pavilion* (DOMINO)

After 2007's *Strawberry Jam*, and the 2008 *Water Curses EP*, Animal Collective return with the highly-anticipated and hyped *Merriweather Post Pavilion*. Both of these are within reason though, because this record does not disappoint in the least. *Merriweather Post Pavilion* is their most accessible and least convoluted album. Not to mention their best album, as well. The songs, as a whole, are more straightforward and less cut-and-paste than in previous albums. Each of the songs on *Merriweather Post Pavilion* contain divine harmonies, arty-guitars, pulsing bass lines, and some really cryptic lyrics. Quite simply, their music has been described as psychedelic Beach Boys, or the Beach Boys on acid. Same difference, I guess. Seriously though, this record is pretty amazing, and so worthy of the hype. Best record of 2009? It's still early to say, but it just might end up being true.

Ryan Adams & The Cardinals – *Cardinology* (LOST HIGHWAY)

Extremely prolific singer-songwriter Ryan Adams returns with his band the Cardinals to release *Cardinology*, an album which teeters between alt-country-rock songs, and stadium rock songs à la U2. Its themes vary from love, lost relationships, and well, substance abuse. The latter, being something that

Ryan Adams has successfully curbed since *Easy Tiger*. This, in turn, has made him a more focused singer-songwriter than in past efforts. Not only that, but Adams and the Cardinals have never sounded as cohesive and good than on *Cardinology*. Opener "Born Into A Light" is an alt-country introspective song on being sober ("Be patient oh the past is just a memory and heal/Heal your vines you'll heal inside eventually"). Whereas on "Magick," Adams channels the stadium rock of U2 ("So turn the radio up loud and get down/Let your body move/Let your body sway/ Listen to the music play/It's magick"). Elsewhere, on the beautiful "Cobwebs" Adams begs the question, "If I'm sorry, sorry enough/ If I fall will you pity me?/Will you confuse my love for the cobwebs." All in all, this is another excellent addition to an already extensive catalog by prolific singer-songwriter Ryan Adams.

Tip: *Check these people out on MySpace:*
"These Orphaned Eyes" — An amazing post-rock group from Los Angeles. Sounds like Explosions In The Sky mixed with My Bloody Valentine.
Also, check out these independent labels: "Great Minds" [formerly, Number 3 records] and "Track Number Records" for quality independent releases.

MICHAEL STUART

task oriented. will help you move.

my roommates having boy troubles when cute stand-up girl calls me saying she got up at open mic but it was to early for me to get their. my roommate mouths 'invite her over,' so i attempt to ply her with vegan frozen pizza and *over the edge* on dvd. shes already on her way to a show at largo. we hang up. my roommate says 'you should go.' 'what? i don't want to look like a psycho stalker.' 'she called you. she could have blown you off or been to busy. but she called you,she volunteered where she'd be tonight. you should go.' so i take the bus down from echo park while calling cute stand-up girl to see if shes going to margeret cho in the big room or Australian singer songwriter girl in the small room, but it's going to voicemail. standing outside largo i call my roommate and reflect on how my life is like a PG John Cusack romantic comedy, all endearing well meant foibles but no action. i decide on Australian singer songwriter girl who's the latest in the grand largo tradition of earth tones and technical proficiency. it doesn't take long for me to realize that i picked the wrong show, but i got pancakes at norm's afterward making it not a complete loss. cute stand-up girl said her show was weird and that i made the right choice. relating the whole story to my best girl friend with the creepy smile she laughs. then i tell her my plan for a solo art show featuring portraits of former crushes named after the one that broke my heart titled 'i wiki'd your surname to see what kind of Asian you were.'

vivian girls – *s/t*; footvillage – *friendship nation*; animal collective – *merriweather post pavilion*; no age *nouns*; abe vigoda *skeleton*.

Tip: *pehrspace monday nights. never not awesome. anywhere kyle h. mabsen is DJ'ing because yes you do want a trancey fall out boy song.*

BUTTERTOOTH

-nathan-wesley-lambert-

The Found Tapes – Various Artists (MINIMAL WAVE)
FOUND TAPES. minimal wave from America 1981-1987. ----------

The Lost Tapes – Various Artists (MINIMAL WAVE
european minimal wave 1981-1986 ----- BELGIUM!

Des Jeunes Gens Modernes – Various Artists
post Punk Cold Wave et culture novo en France 1978-1983

Oppenheimer Analysis – *New Mexico* (MINIMAL WAVE)
Originally released in 1982 during The height of the ColD WaR home-taping Boom. MINIMAL-WAVE.ORG

Voices in the Air – *Voices in the Air*
new romantic wave dance

League of Nations – *Music For The New Depression*
goth face

Iron Curtain – *Desertion 1982-1988*
goth balls

Moritz von Ozwalt – *ReComposed*
.....Deutsche Grammophon,,,---NERDS

Daniel Balldeli – *Cosmic Disco Rock*
italo

Severed Heads – *Adenoids*
..1977-1985..

Spires of Time – Various Artists
78s from the EMI archive, 'Classic's.,.,.,.,

Metro Area – Various Artists
fabric live-Disco Face

Monochrome Set – *Sessions & Singles*

Blood Is Red – Various Artists
music from Dario Argento Films

IVG Vol # 1 – Various Artists
futur anterieur france 1975 - 1985

Cold Cave – *GothBalls*

Loude – *Vol #1*
loudefied

Los Iniciados – *Untitled*
synth pop minimal

The Clean – *Compilation*
---- y ----- e ------- s.

Stereo – *Somewhere In The Night*
minimal-wave.org

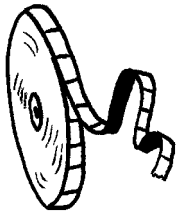
Ensemble Pittoresque – *Art of Being*

Störung – *Europe Calls*
(MINIMAL WAVE)
new wave electro synth

Pavillon 7B – *Dark Life*

Sluik – *Back To Burnsley*

FIND EM !!
medio mutante.
festival der genialen dissidenten.
trumpett days.
graham phillip d'ancey.
18:e oktober.
linear movement.
Somnambulist.
Das Kabinette.
martin dupont.
sudeten creche.



THIS is What WE WANT! '
WE want "MUSIC"! to 'EXPLODE'!! '
' " DON'T Give US none oF That' "LOLLYGAGGING" 'crap!

Tip: *..<<..AMOEBA MAIL ORDER..!>>*
,,,,,,,"amoeba mail order",,,,,

ORION

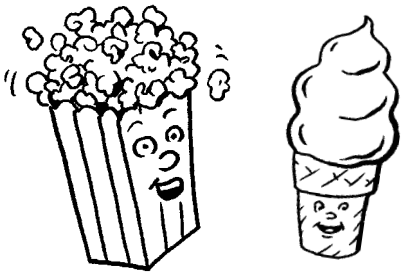
"Sorry I'm late."

Heltah Skeltah – *D.I.R.T. (Da Incredible Rap Team)*
(DUCK DOWN MUSIC)
Superfluous acronyms aside, Da rap team of Ruck (aka Sean Price) & Rock (aka Count Rockula) are back, and dirty as ever. Keepin' it gutter grimy with thick, dingy samples, crackin' drums, and two of the most dynamic flows in Hip-Hop today, they remind you of why you loved 'em so much in the mid-nineties. "Planet of the apes I'll blam the cannon in your face..."

Girl Talk – *Feed the Animals*
(ILLEGAL ARTS)
Thas' right! The mash-upper of mash-uppers returns with a cd full of durty south swagger, and whiplash fast up-tempo mixes as Girl Talk takes the remix to the next-next level piling on song upon sample upon song. Sure my electronic pick incorporates lots o' hip-hop, but in the able hands of Girl Talk it becomes something new. Feed me!!

Amy Macdonald – *This is the Life*
(MELODRAMATIC/DECCA/UNIVERSAL)
I know, one of these things doesn't look like the other, but when I saw this young lass on fellow scot Craig Ferguson's late night talk show, I was instantly smitten. Unafraid of her Scottish accent, she lets it sneak right out, putting a folky quality to her songs of opportunity missed. This isn't all accent and guitar though, as she is backed by a band who pump good energy into her strumming. (As of this writing we had a few in the used rock section...)

Alborosie – *Soul Pirate*
(FORWARD RECORDINGS)
I work here and even I am impresssed by Amoeba! I caught a little of Italian-rasta Albo's (Rosie's?) standout track "Herbablist," in a curious little shop in Venice, IT and couldn't forget it. I looked through that city's twisted alleys, and trekked all over Rome with no luck. Imagine my joy when I returned to work and there *Soul Pirat*e was! Yeah, he's from Italy, transplanted to Jamaica, and yeah, he's white. Doesn't matter. This is the best Reggae album you've heard this year.



N.A.S.A. – *Spirit of Apollo* (ANTI)
The combined forces of Squeak E. Clean (LA, CA) and DJ Zegon (Brazil) are N.A.S.A. (North America South America) This collaboration is more than the two of these producers, with their sound anchored by Zegon's Brazilian roots, as they get a ton of musical guests making for some interesting combinations. These pairings include indie darling Lykke Li & Kanye West, the decidedly punk rock ODB (on his last known recorded verse) and raw and rugged Karen O. Perhaps the most suiting team-up, if hard to imagine, is the cosmic freak out "Spacious Thoughts," with alien mastermind Kool Keith and Tom Waits.

PPP – *Abundance* (UBIQUITY)
Triple P (fromerly Platinum Pied Pipers) return with a second album and a new sound. Using live instrumentation, whether played or looped, PPP has taken their sound to the next level. With a wink to the past and an eye on the future, PPP imagines funky soul ala Sly & The Family Stone for the 21st Century. Dig it!

The Misled Children – *...Meet Odean Pope* (PORTER RECORDS)
I really can't get enough of the Clutchy Hopkins/ Misled Children sound. The organic, analog source material they play and loop, provides for a "warm fuzzy" of a soulful, hip-hop experience. Matched with Horn player Odean Pope's (Max Roach Trio) playing and arranging, The Misled Children create a fantastic journey into a new sound for all the heads. With Pope's entrancing, bending notes, referencing Ethiopian jazz, the Children's funky beat chugs and churns beneath, creating a sound both new and familiar, and always dope.

(Sean Price Presents) Ruste Juxx – *Indestructible* (DUCK DOWN MUSIC)
This album may be something of a guilty pleasure, yet I find myself returning to listen to the gravelly bark of mister Ruste Juxx. Hailing from Crown Heights Brooklyn ("When the East is in the house..."), Ruste Juxx has delivered an album that has a little something for everyone, yet his passion shines through his flow, keeping the sound from being "watered down." I really haven't heard this sort of catchy, sing-song, hook driven, yet street, songwriting since a half-dollar became millions. Cop it one the real.

***Hamlet 2* – Directed by Andrew Fleming**
I am not one of those europhile Steve Coogan initiates, but I must say, there hasn't been a movie that had me laughing this hard since *Yellowbeard*. As dumb or as smart as you want it to be, this movie works on all levels of funny!

***Burn After Reading* – Directed by Ethan & Joel Coen**
Burn After Reading is built around the ever popular "perfect plan goes wrong," premise. Where many of these movies often go wrong is that they take themselves too seriously. Thankfully, the directors Joel and Ethan Coen are good enough to take their film just serious enough, allowing you to laugh at the characters tragi-comic flaws. A little more intellectual than my previous pick, it still has enough gaffs for easy laughs! Chuckle up!

Check out local bands:
We are the World (Dance! Dance! Dance!)
Hard Place (The band's DVD is a beautiful collison of gore & synth.)

Honorable Mentions: E-40 – Ball Street Journal; *Golden Holy* – Golden Holy

MCGOVI

These days, I can talk at length about feet.

Girl Talk – *Feed the Animals*
(ILLEGAL ART)
Girl Talk albums always make me want to clean my house. They are so phrenetic! Girl Talk is actually one guy, Gregg Gillis, who takes mash-ups to an entirely different level. He layers songs from every genre and style to create sonic mosaics that will have you trying to identify every song as quick as you can before he slides into the next sample. If it doesn't give you a seizure, you'll most definitely have a cleaner home as a result.

Kid Cudi vs Crookers – *Day 'N Night Remix*
An electro remix of MC Kid Cudi's first single from his forthcoming debut album. The original song is good too, but this remix makes me want to dance. Can't wait to hear the full studio album.

Healamonster & Tarsier – *Cupcake Cave*
LA's own Healamonster & Tarsier return with another beautiful, haunting electronic album. It's hard to find something NOT to like about this album.

Kanye West – *808s & Heartbreak*
(ROC-A-FELLA RECORDS)
I realize that Kanye doesn't need my help promoting this record, but I really liked it. Instead of talking about how much money he has or how talented he is, Kanye sings (yes, sings!) about his sadness, emptiness and loss, despite having money and success. In "Welcome to Heartbreak," he sets the tone for the record with the line: "My friend showed me pictures of his kids/ And all I could show him was pictures of my cribs."

A.R. Rahman – *Slumdog Millionaire* (Soundtrack)
(INTERSCOPE)
This is the perfect soundtrack for a beautiful film. Go see this movie and then go buy the soundtrack. The soundtrack features a new M.I.A. track, "O...Saya." It is one of my favorite examples of world music, electronica, and Hip-Hop blending together successfully. The track starts slowly, with drums and male vocals, and then explodes into M.I.A.'s female voice and powerful delivery.

Animal Collective – *Merriweather Post Pavilion*
(DOMINO)
I am new to the Animal Collective train, I'll admit that. My understanding is that this album is more accessible than some of their previous records, and that might be why I liked it so much. I really loved this album (sorry Annie!), especially the song "My Girls." The song "Bluish" gets a special mention for the line "I'm getting lost in your curls." That's enough to make a curly-haired girl swoon.

Lily Allen – *It's Not Me, It's You*
(CAPITOL)
Lily Allen's second record, *It's Not Me, It's You*, might just have my favorite album title of the year. I mean really, who feels comforted by the line "it's not you, it's me" as they're getting dumped? This album has the same style of witty, observational lyrics with pop melodies as her debut. She even makes a song called "F*** You" sound cheerful and catchy! She is most heartfelt and vulnerable on "The Fear" when she sings about being famous and losing her sense of reality living with that fame.

Tip: *Check out "What's In My Bag" on amoeba.com — Mos Def, Noel Gallagher, Afrika Bambaataa, Dave Grohl, and a bunch of other cool people talking about what they found shopping at Amoeba.*

RACHEL J.

I'm yet another refugee from Rhino Claremont trying to navigate through the dizzying maze that is Amoeba Hollywood! I am enjoying every minute of it though, and soaking up as much great music as I can!!

Starflyer 59 – *Dial M*

Daedelus – *Love To Make Music To*

The Bug – *London Zoo*

Meat Beat Manifesto – *Autoimmune*

Irving Fields Trio – *My Yiddishe Mama* (Import)

Build An Ark – *Dawn*

ZZK Sound – *Vol. 1 Cumbia Digital*

Carl Craig – *Sessions*

RAFF

Built to fail, like an American made car.

***Let the Right One In* – Directed by Tomas Alfredson**
Unlike the uptight mormon vision of sexually repressed vampires in *Twilight*, this quietly poignant coming of age film has a touching depiction of first love. It also has a cold, uneasy yet realistic quality (not unlike *Silence of the Lambs*) with plenty of Vampyric Lore and a blood lust *Twilight* also lacks. This movie creeps up on you and lingers in your thoughts.

Big Love: Season Three
The first two seasons of *Big Love* are as near perfect as you can get. It seemed like a religious themed show about polygamy would fall on either side of preachy or exploitation but surprisingly, polygamy adds to the drama threefold because the sister wives must work out problems with one another & deal with the bigger picture of huge families and differing beliefs within the community. You can identify with having a "family secret" if not three moms. The very best actors & writers on television today pull off campy character driven humor and sensitive family

issues with ease. No show since *Twin Peaks* has had such a great cast of characters (Chloë Sevigny, Bill Paxton, Grace Zabriskie, Harry Dean Stanton, Bruce Dern, Matt Ross). I want to gay marry Bill Henrickson and join these kooky cultists in big love.

Battlestar Galactica: Season 4.0

Television's Sci-fi *Star Wars* knock off is rebuilt as a dark drama with political intrigue that parallels the bleak W. Bush era. A post-apocalyptic dystopian society on the run from robotic superiors in search of utopia (Earth). Real world psychological & social problems plague the crew infiltrated by hybrid cylon/human clones. There are no good guys & bad guys. As we delve deeper into this series we see the evil man & his technologies can bring without the morality of reason. Plus it is god damned frakin' fun to watch.

Europa: Criterion Collection – Directed by Lars von Trier

Before Lars von Trier began experimenting with styles and rules of film making, he did the *Europa* trilogy (*The Element of Crime, Epidemic*). His flash as director recalls Fritz Lang, Welles or Hitchcock while the abundant creativity is awash in bleak Kafka expressionism. Leopold Kessler is Germany's post-war Zentropa train line sleeping car conductor in 1945. Leopold tries to stay neutral while the allied forces and a German terrorist group battle. Hypnotic and well crafted if not depressing.

Synecdoche, New York – Directed by Charlie Kaufman

Theater director Caden Cotard (Philip Seymour Hoffman) mounts a new play so much about his real life that it takes him over and becomes his life until it passes him by. Now, is that so hard? I guess for the thousands of critics whose reviews litter the magazines, TV, Newspapers, internet blogs, it was hard to review without a stab at understanding a movie about a man falling apart mentally. It must drive them crazy writing critiques filled with phrases like "defies description" or "overwhelming." You don't have to feel dumb if you see something you don't understand, maybe you aren't suppose to. Like Donnie Darko, this character is seeing things which aren't real and logic slips away here too. My only advice to Charlie Kaufman is to keep the laughs at a steady pace. The first hour is filled with absurdities but as Ceden's life gets more awful the humor vanishes from this antihero movie by the last reel.

Tip: *Buy now or pay later. Living in poverty my whole life prepared me for the not so great depression. Depression prepared me to have my hopes squashed at every turn. No credit cards, no cell phone and the greedy have assured I'll be one of 1 million homeless scrapping for aluminum cans in your garbage sooner than expected. I call upon the great and powerful Obama and click my heels together...."There's no place like a home."*

RAY

East Los Angeles native. Independent Hip Hop artist & owner of Triumphant Records.

DJ BABU – *Duck Season Vol.3*

(NATURE SOUNDS)
Dope. Dope. Dope. DJ Babu is one third of LA Hip Hop trailblazers, Dilated Peoples. This is Babu's third release in the Duck Season series and it is pure FIRE!

Q-Tip – *Renaissance*

(UNIVERSAL MOTOWN)
Q-Tip is back! This has got to be one of the best albums of the year. I played this record every day for a week straight when it came out. It's solid from start to finish. Rooted in Hip Hop with Jazzy Soul overtones and it's even got some classic Tribe Called Quest'ness to it!

Jake One – *White Van Music*

(RHYMESAYERS)
Jake One is a Hip Hop producer's producer...This album has mad features from the likes of MF Doom, Black Milk, Slug, Pos(de la soul) and a whole bunch of other cats ripping the mic. This is just some classic trunk rattling, head noddin', speaker bumpin' sh*t! GO GET IT.

Tip: *If you love to dance you need to check out ANDA! Every 1st Saturday of the month @ Mals Bar. The dj's there spin Salsa, Cumbia, Afrobeat, Samba, and even Latin House! Plus a live band every night! Mals Bar, 2331 S. Hill St., LA, CA 90007 www.myspace.com/andacumbiasalsa*

MR. HAHN

Buyer, pricer, dubstep enthusiast

Junior Reid – *Original Foreign Man* (BLACK ROOTS)

Early '80s reggae.

Tiger Bomb – *Vol. 1*

Dubstep mix by Kali Dubz past & present.

Soul Messengers – *Soul Messengers From Dimona* (NUMERO)

Funk and R&B from Dimona, Israel.

Lo Dubs – *Analog Clash* (LO DUBS)

Label comp mixed by LA's own 6 Block.

Meat Beat Manifesto – *Autoimmune* (PLANET MU)

Heavy sounds from the veterans.

RICK FRYSTAK

Robbie Basho – *Bonn 1st Supreme*

(BO WEEVIL)
Previously unreleased live concert cassette tapes. Stunning display of the unsettled genius' guitar thrum. Back woods inclination, new world wizard. This guy's good.

Terri Lyne Carrington – *Structure*

(ACT)
She-drum-driven jazz-rock with adroit shredding by Greg Osby, Adam Rogers, Haslip and all'em. Futuristic funky Fritos of fire. Where's this been?

Juan Manuel Cañizares – *Noches de Iman y Luna* (NUEVOS MEDIOS)

Stirring outpouring of emotional new-Flamenco fire. These cats have technique to burn. Take the hint.

Tower of Power – *The Very Best Of Tower Of Power*

(WARNER BROTHERS)
In-the-pocket urban ache. Bleating baritone butter-ballads of yearning and yesterdays. Synco-sexy up-north knowledge of living and loving real.

Jordi Savall/Hesperion XXI – *Ostinato* (ALLAVOX)

Lovely collection of Medieval and Renaissance strings, elegance of grace and timbre. These players have it in them.

Terry Riley – *Shri Camel* (CBS)

Elegant microtonal synth serenades. Echo-y ecstacy muses shadows, color, vibration. Terry works up his best routines ever.

Vince Mendoza – *Blauklang* (ACT)

Bubbly-plush big band blues arranged with silky intertwined mod tonality. Vince vests magnificent melancholy. You'll take to it.

Bobo Stenson Trio – *Cantado* (ECM)

I love me my piano trios. Bobo and his boys embark on a lovely, delicate pilgrimage of jazz intellect. Sound good? Nuance galore.

June Tabor – *Rosa Mundi*

(GREEN LINNET)
June's voice never better, breathing wisdom of time, sensuality and consequence. Alluring neo-classical folk accompaniment. I'll take a case of it.

Dominique Di Piazza Trio – *Princess Sita* (SUNNYSIDE)

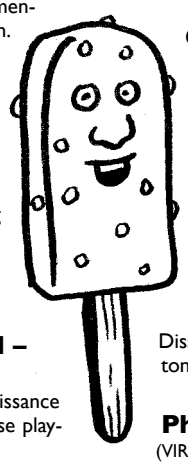
The Django Mclaughlin on the bass. Charming flights of freak finger flying...keeningly komposed. Drums'n acoustic guitar do the rest, and it delivers.

Peter Gabriel – *Up (Vinyl remaster)* (CLASSIC RECORDS)

Awe-inspiring pressing of a record I neglected on its release. Deep thought-ed studio diablerie. Crackling currents in the great one's narrative. Pete's creative, huh?

Pharoah Sanders – *Live at the East* (IMPULSE)

Spooky, soaring metaphysical sax melodies that Pharaoh finds, shakes loose, crying, laughing...supremely hum-able. Double basses mew, piano palpitates, bells and godess chant. Whoa, Nelly!



Giya Kancheli – *Little Imber*

(ECM)
Immaculate, placid vocal and instrumental pieces of broad harmonic resonance. Georgian composer Kancheli fusing the ancient future ebb and flow. Quiet confessions indeed.

Fennesz – *Black Sea*

(TOUCH)
Blue noise of uppermost relevance. Circuits flogging logic until shimmers loom. Dissonance discovered and ditched. Drone tones but not alone.

Philip Glass – *North Star*

(VIRGIN)
Rediscovered 1977 gem, his best. Small group studio cyclic stargazing, vox and instrumental incoming. Go back here...the real deal.

Kayhan Kalhour & Brooklyn Rider – *Silent City* (WORLD VILLAGE)

Kalhour bows the kamancheh, a little Persian fiddle. The string quartet blooms beauty with percussion to boot. Intense and serene, very NOW.

Alexandre Desplat – *The Curious Case Of Bejamin Button* [Score]

(CONCORD)
Ambrosial themes take you on a trip. Cinematic, yet in no need of screen. Plush frontal lobe fantasy.

Christina Kubisch – *Night Flights*

(IMPORTANT)
Minimal electronic sound sculpted in the early '80s. Homemade bloop-bleep, glass tubal, voci, trumpeta. Austere exporatory atmospherics ascending.

U. Shrinivas – *Samjanitha* (DREYFUSS)
Indian electric mandolin virtuoso blows our mind. Mixes east, west, north, south, up and down. Stones turned, ideas blossom, chops aplenty. Psychic and aural incense.

Hector Zazou & Swara – *In The House Of Mirrors* (CRAMMED)
Processed east Indian and north African instros. Hector pads the nest of the instruments with nominal noodling. Scrumptious oud loops the somnolent violin. Smoke this.

John Tavener – *Piano Music*
(NAXOS)
At once harmonically dense and sparsely regal treks to joy and pain. Big orchestras in one instrument. Angel's flights to within us.

Ishu Kayoko/Singers Three – *Go-Go Scat* (KING JAPAN)
No, it's scat singing in Japanese from the later mid century, with that A&M Records vibe. Evocative swing with a small-group thing. Go-Go get a copy.

Johann Johannsson – *Fordlandia*
(4AD)
A collection of heavy heartwrench. Sweeping strings of sad silouette. Dark patterns shine on lighted hope. Affective.

Tip: *Get a third speaker for your stereo. Hook up the wire to the Left and Right positive speaker terminals of your amplifier or receiver, leaving the other speakers wired in. Place the third speaker at a distance from your stereo speakers. Marvel at all the wonderful reverb-y out-of-phase sound that you never knew was in the recording. Move the speaker around for the best perspective.*

RONA

I wish my gums would floss themselves.

Here's what i've been listening to for the past few months. I was gonna write about each release and tell you why I love all these albums, but i'm already way past submitting this. Thanks Facebook.

Tobacco – *Fucked Up Friends*
(ANTICON)
This is one-half of Black Moth Super Rainbow and more than doubley brilliant!!! Druggy dreamy psych-pop.

Xela – *In Bocca al Lupo* (TYPE)

Murcof – *The Versailles Sessions*
(LEAF)

Deerhunter – *Microcastle / Weird Era Continued* (KRANKY)

Ursula Bogner – *Recordings 1969-1988* (FAITICHE)

Reuber – *Sudpol*
(if ur into Cluster, Rother & Mobius or Conrad Schnitzler)

MRR-ADM – *untitled 10" EP*
(limited to 1000 pieces) - sickest drums you've ever heard

Max Richter – *24 Postcards in Full Colour*

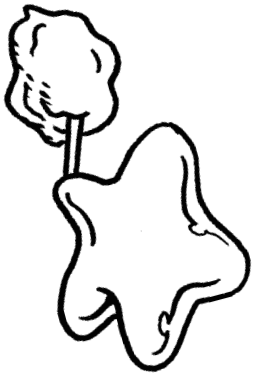
Brown Wing Overdrive – *ESP Organism* (TZADIK)
this is a weird album by 3 New York weirdos. I love weirdos!!!

John Cale & Terry Riley – *Church Of Anthrax* (WOUNDED BIRD)

Robert Fripp & Brian Eno – *No Pussyfooting* (DGM)
2CD Re-release - droney ambience, great for meditation or fine-slicing garlic.

Robbie Basho – *Bonn Ist Supreme*
(BO'WEAVIL)
steel string acoustic guitar+ ragas are good for you.

***One Kiss Can Lead To Another: Girl Group Sounds - Lost and Found* – Various Artists**
(RHINO BOX SET)
Persephone let me borrow this (i miss you girl). It always puts me in a good mood. Shake off your mortal worries and lace up your rollerskates.



ROXX

***The Dark Knight (Blu Ray)* – Directed by Christopher Nolan**
Superheroes

Battlestar Galactica - Season 4.0
and it's not cause Lucy Lawless is in it

Joan Baez – *Day After Tomorrow*
(RAZOR & TIE)

Bruce Springsteen – *Working on a Dream* (COLUMBIA)
and it's not just because I love him. i love this album.

Grace Jones – *Hurricane*
(WALL OF SOUND)
as of this writing it is import only

Neil Young – *Sugar Mountain - Live* (REPRISE)

RM

Classical Buyer for Amoeba Hollywood Previously Senior Manager for Catalog Music at Wherehouse Entertainment and Virgin Megastores

Die Meistersiger
Music by Wagner
Featuring Goodell
Chandos has given us the long awaited English National Opera live performance of Wagner's Meistersinger (Mastersinger) in English. Conducted by the great Wagnerian Reginald Goodell and with Norman Bailey as Hans Sachs this is a memorable performance of Wagner's comedy masterpiece.

Piano Concertos 1 & 3
Music by Hiller
Featuring Howard Shelly
Hyperion continues their laudable series of neglected Concertos with the *Piano Concertos 1 & 3* of Ferdinand Hiller, a once prominent composer and friend of Mendelssohn and Schumnann. Howard Shelley is both pianist and conductor in this recording that has lifted these fine works from obscurity.

Volume 4
Music by Leroy Anderson
Featuring Slatkin
Naxos is continuing their splendid series of orchestral pieces by Leroy Anderson with a fourth volume. (Syncopated Clock, Typewriter). Conductor Leonard Slatkin brings out the wit of the music which in this volume includes Irish Suite, Forgotten Dreams, Blue Tango among others. Noted Broadway singer Kim Kriswell joins the orchestra in the vocal pieces.

Symphony #7
Music by Bruckner
Featuring Bruno Walter
Testament has issued a broadcast recording of Bruckner's Seventh Symphony conducted by the great Bruno Walter and the New York Philharmonic from a December 1954 broadcast in excellent mono sound. Walter recorded the work later on but this interpertation is much more vigorous. Also included is Gluck's "Ilphiginie in Aulide Overture" new to Walter's discography.

Fantasia Contrappuntisitica
Music by Busoni
Featuring Milne
Pianist Hamish Milne on Hyperion takes on Ferruccio Busoni's incredibly difficult Fantasia Contappuntistica which is Busoni's attemt to complete Bach's unfinished "Art of the Fugue." Challenging and fasinating listening.

SAM

Henry Clay People – *For Cheap Or For Free* (AUTUMN TONE)
Raucous, (somehow hilarious) swaggering Stones-ish rock fronted by the charismatically geeky younger brother of Stephen Malkmus. They're getting bigger and better — get in on the ground floor!

The Spires – *Look!*
This will be nearly impossible to find — it's a homemade CD-R. But I bet if you transact with The Spires via MySpace they will gladly mail you some of their releases, including this latest EP, which is reminiscent of The Velvet Underground but a bit more upbeat, a bit more domestic. Also check to see if they're playing near you — they live just north of L.A.!

The Nerves – *One Way Ticket*
(ALIVE)
Great, tight songs with the right amount of bite. Side two gives an interesting perspective with demos and live recordings. Paul Collins is now playing music with members of the power pop group The Records. Awesome!

Milk 'N' Cookies – *Milk 'N' Cookies* (RADIO HEARTBEAT RECORDS)
An obscure Pansy Rock record gets the royal reissue treatment!

Fools Gold – *Surprise Hotel b/w Night Dancing* (BLACK IRIS MUSIC)
This is the funnest live band in Los Angeles. Don't bring your shoes! Here's Luke from Fools Gold: "Our influences are all over the place! But if you are looking for specific countries I'd say, to name a few: Ethiopia, Eritrea, Niger, Mali, South Africa...and of course the USA and UK! I don't know how best to categorize it but we typically fall into the world music/afropop genres. Though many more words come to mind: dance, soul, punk, tropical..."

SARAH QUECKE

Unlike most women, I love the cramps!

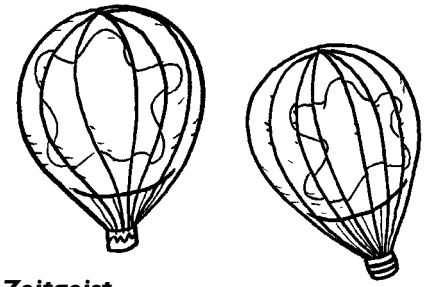
The Cramps
I suggest any of their albums. R.I.P. Lux Interior 1948-2009.

The Cramps are one of very few bands that changed me forever. The sleazy guitar, hootin' & hollerin' will always put a smile on your face and an extra beat in your heart. The Cramps gave you honest passion in every album. I am very grateful to have their music in my life.

Quick Tip: Check out the album *Songs The Cramps Taught Us*. A collection of songs they compiled to let you hear the music that they grew up on. (Note: Do not confuse with their other album *Songs The Lord Taught Us*.)

Otis Redding – *Very Best Of...* (or any of his albums)
I love love love his love songs.

Delta Spirit – *Ode To Sunshine*
(ROUNDER)
If Indie 103 was still on the air all of Los Angeles would be singing along to the Delta Spirit!



Zeitgeist – Directed by Peter Joseph

Slumdog Millionaire – Danny Boyle
This movie blew me away. It's my new favorite. The main character is nothing short of "all heart."

Religulous – Directed by Larry Charles
Bill Maher is the smartest man I know. He takes the touchy subject of religion and questions it in the most awkward and funny way. If you agree with the movie or not, you will still laugh!

Defiance – Directed by Edward Zwick
A true, remarkable story of two Jewish brothers who help save their people from the Nazis by hiding out in a forest for many, many years.

SCOTT BUTTERWORTH EST. 1984

For those planning to go to Coachella, those not sure if they want to go, or those that just use the Coachella line up to discover new music each year, I'm going to use this edition of "Music We Like" to highlight "Music I Like" that will be playing/or already played (depending on when you read this) at Coachella Music and Arts Festival 2009.

White Lies – *To Lose My Life...*
(FICTION RECORDS)
One part Joy Division, one part Muse, one part Interpol; a fresh face in the '00s post-punk alternative clubhouse. Lead single "Death" has been responsible for some near car accidents while listening to this song, due to some extremely zealous steering wheel drumming on my part! "Death"'s intro blasts you into another world and evokes anticipation and excitement in the same fashion as the opening chords to Joy Division's "Love Will Tear Us Apart." The churning atmosphere of melodies is bombarded by blasts of drums that can only be described as the sound of canons firing on the '00s Post-Punk Revival battlefield. And in a sentiment that would make Shakespeare proud, the chorus of title track "To Lose My Life" makes one of the greatest proclamations in the history of love songs, "Let's grow old together, and die at the same time."

No Age – *Nouns* (SUB POP)
A lo-fi fuzz/art rock duo. One on guitar, one on drums. But don't expect the White Stripes...more like Sonic Youth. If you want to be able to say to the kids, "...I was there when (insert legendary band and time/place) happened..." buy this album now and go see them play live...anywhere!

MSTRKRFT (master-kraft) – *Fist of God*
In 2006 Daft Punk landed their spaceship and claimed sovereignty over the Coachella "Dance Tent." In 2008 Justice closed the weekend with one of best dj/electronic sets I've ever seen. Sprouting from the same branch of the family tree as the previous two, MSTRKRFT is set to follow suit in 2009 at Coachella and beyond.

Thenewno2 – *You Are Here*
Paul McCartney is not going to be the only one with Beatle blood at this year's Coachella. Dhani Harrison, son of the late great George Harrison, and Oliver Hecks comprise the creative mind of Thenewno2. The result is an accomplished debut that sounds like one would expect if post-Beatles George joined Radiohead.

Shepard Fairey (aka DJ Diabetic)
You'll probably never recognize him on the street, but if you don't recognize his work, I don't think you've been alive for the past year and a half. Shepard is the man behind the "Obey Giant" street art phenomenon, the infamous Barack Obama "Hope" poster, and some just plain and simple cool DJ sets at the hippest events around Los Angeles.

The Gaslight Anthem – *The '59 Sound*

A Place To Bury Strangers – *A Place To Bury Strangers*
The *Washington Post* decsribed this trio out of New York and their debut album as, "the most ear-shatteringly loud garage/shoegaze band you'll ever hear" . . . I'll leave it at that!

Friendly Fires – *Friendly Fires*
(XL RECORDINGS)

My Bloody Valentine – *Loveless*
(CREATION RECORDS)
Originally released in 1991, what can be said about this indie rock/shoegaze masterpiece that hasn't already been said? This album is the indie rock musical equivalent of a 74 page Master's Thesis. Wait . . . maybe that's because I just uncovered an actual 74 page Master's Thesis by a Florida State University Graduate Student analyzing *Loveless*. While that might give you an idea of the complexity of *Loveless*, it's more than just an academic composition, it's the *Pet Sounds* for the college-rock generation. It's an album with unprecedentd experimentation, approach, technique and manifestation, yet it doesn't ever forget its pop foundation and timeless emotion. The album opens with one of the most abrasive, yet beautiful anti-guitar riffs of all time, and at the height of its tension, drops into a verse so aesthetically soothing you can almost feel physical weight being lifted off your shoulders, foreshadowing an emotion felt by myself and (I believe) our collective society on Presidential Inauguration Day this past January. You don't know what's waiting just around the corner, but you know you feel good. The handful of shows performed since MBV's 2007 reunion have received outstanding reviews, which will make their Coachella performance one not to miss. Besides a trio of shows in Santa Monica and NYC late last year, the upcoming performance at Coachella will be their triumphant return to the West Coast and the American music scene since dropping out of sight in the early '90s. MBV's live shows are legendary for their eardrum shattering volume output (two decibals over the threshold for pain and eardrum damage) and *LA Weekly* writer, Randall Roberts, described it best when he said, "To truly appreciate what MBV is doing, you actually have to damage yourself!" At Coachella we'll see if we can get any closer to answering Roberts' question, "Why must something so pretty be so dangerous?"

Tip: *If you like music, pop culture, personal memoir, and want to check out something that can't be consumed with headphones, check out these books:*
Killing Yourself To Live *by Chuck Klosterman*
Love is a Mixtape: Life and Loss, One Song at a Time *by Rob Sheffield*
Perfect From Now On: How Indie Rock Saved My Life *by John Sellers*
If I was British I would call it "Brilliant," but since I'm only part British.... ahh....hell, I'm just going to call it "Brilliant!"

SCOTT FEEMSTER

Beautiful Love Themes for Declining Expectations....

I know there's lots of great new music coming out, but I've been having fun going back and re-discovering some reissues lately...dig, if you will, the picture...

Swervedriver – *Raise* and *Mezcal Head*

I seriously dug these guys back in the early '90s, but I could never quite figure out why they got lumped in with the so-called 'shoegazer' scene in the U.K., other than playing with some of the bands in that scene. Where the other bands wanted to strum their guitars, look at their effects pedals and mumble into the microphone, Swervedriver always seemed like they would rather run you over, throw you in the backseat, and take you for a long drive in the desert someplace. Raise had a lot of good songs, and had that "Hey Kids, we're making a record!" energy to it, but I thought the band really hit their stride on *Mezcal Head*. They took the post-Stooges fury of the first album and stretched it out into songs that stick in your head for years to come. After hearing "Blowin' Cool" off of *Mezcal Head* again, I realized it still runs through my head every once in a while, all these years later. Both albums got remastered and have added extra tracks, and are well worth checking out.

Loop – *Heaven's End* and *Fade Out*

Again, another band I was heavily into in the '90s. These guys were and are unique in their own weird way, combining heavy, psychedelic guitars with the motorik rhythms of Can and Neu and coming up with something that is equal parts cathartic and hypnotic (at least for me). These reissues sound great and include some cool extra live tracks and radio sessions. I remember seeing them live back then and having bruised neck muscles for a day or two from banging and twisting my head around. Turn these reissues up loud enough to make the floor shake, and you'll get an idea of the soundworld I was in. (I'm going to wait until my neighbors are gone one day, and then I'll do the same.)

New Order – *Movement* and *Power, Corruption, and Lies*

Back when I still loved New Order. These sound great and it's great to hear the b-sides included with them. My friends Tom Pixley and John Darnielle and I got to see New Order on their first tour in the United States, (in '83? '82? I dunno...), at Billy Barty's Roller Disco in Fullerton. Being the Joy Division/New Order dorks that we were, we decided to get down to the venue at around 5 in the evening to make sure we could get a good position up front, and found we were the first ones there. One of the roadies had left a side door open, and we got to sneak in and see and hear NEW ORDER SOUND-CHECKING AND PRACTICING! We stayed in the shadows for probably about 45 minutes until Peter Hook noticed us, and told us to "Secrete ourselves elsewhere." The fact that I remember all of this shows what a big impression it made on my little music-mad mind, and these album reissues bring it all back.

Tip: *Ok, that's all I got for now. I promise I'll dig up some new stuff for the next booklet.*

I know things are rough right now, but as tough as things are, there is more optimism in the air than I can remember in a long time. November 4 was the beginning of the 21st Century, so let's try to truly band together and make ourselves the people we deserve to be. Music is the Message, Love is the Reason, Let's Kick Out The Jams, MF!

SCOTT B. HURST

Used Rock, Under the Stairs, Dungeon, Register, Camo Hat, Camera. Not Andy.

Titan: It's All Pop! – Various Artists (NUMERO GROUP)

Unearthed rarities from the Midwest. Kansas City to be exact, better known for its barbecue and humidity. This collection makes K.C. seem like the land of a thousand Raspberries, and that's a good thing. You might not be bowled over at first but don't give up. Like Dwight Twilley or 20/20, the songs grow on you with each listen and you start to imagine your own top 40 in 1975. The Boys are at the top of it sounding like a punky-hayseed Hello, all glammed up and nowhere to go. The rest of it is a bunch of Badfinger wannabe's ripping through pseudo-hits with flares, flying V's and bad haircuts. Fantastic stuff. Power-Pop!

The Nerves – *One Way Ticket*

(ALIVE!)

All cranked up on San Francisco beatnik speed and trying to sound like the Beatles at the Cavern, the Nerves basically perfected Power-Pop. Jack Lee, Paul Collins and Peter Case, their names are legendary. They moved to L.A. and put it on the map as a force to be reckoned with, putting on shows at the 'PUNK PALACE' on Sunset and Gower in the mid-seventies. They were DIY to the extreme, booking their own tours and putting out their own EP. Don't be put off by the fact that Blondie bled one of their songs of all of its neurotic energy and made it a hit. Jack Lee said, "We didn't want to be in the scene, we wanted to BE the scene." They were, are, and always will be. Power-Pop.

Milk 'N' Cookies – *Milk 'N' Cookies* (RADIO HEARTBEAT)

Double Vinyl gatefold reissue of the highest quality with great photos and even something to hang on your bedroom wall next to your Sweet and Slade posters. Ramones quality rock disguised as teen fluff, Milk 'N' Cookies were too cool to try too hard. The songs are pulsing hymns to high school chicks and rock and roll. Find out where the Go-Go's discovered the sound of "We Got The Beat." Find out what happens when the Sparks and the Bay City Rollers meet for a drink in a dive bar and they both get roofied by the New York Dolls while the Hollywood Brats look on unamused. Like cigarettes dipped in maple syrup, Milk 'N' Cookies are tasty and addictive. Power-Pop.

La Dusseldorf – *La Dusseldorf* and *Viva* (4 MEN WITH BEARDS)

180 gram vinyl reissues of post-NEU! sublime krautrock new-wave perfection. The NEU! beat remains intact, but the rest of the music bounces along with a warm, organic, fuzzy, synthy hum (I guess I can overlook the hippie-ish sentiment of *Viva* because it's foreign and out there). Stadium rock from deep outer space as produced by "Shadow" Morton or Spector. Perfect for driving through the desert at dusk. The future IS calling and the future is these LPs from the past. Kraut-pop.

Nick Lowe – *Jesus Of Cool* and *Pure Pop For Now People* (YEP ROC)

I think the title pretty much sums this one up. Actually both titles are pretty genius. It's a record with something for damn near everyone. Leave that Animal Collective record in the bin and take this one instead (it has a better jacket). Pretend it just came out last week and play it for your friends and enjoy the 'retro' feel of authentic British pop rock with intelligence and wit.

Groundhogs – *Blues Obituary*

(SUNDAZED)

The anti-Cream. The broke-ass Blue Cheer. They don't waste their time being heavy, they skitter along like a wounded cockroach. Tony McPhee plays what you wouldn't expect always. The drum sound is as crude as oil straight from the ground. The songs are strange and raw. This is the true sound of British Blues. It's a new sound, not a rehash of the American blues, a different beast altogether. *Blues Obituary* is primal, brutish and garagey more than it's bluesy. It's unclassifiable like that *Kapt. Kopter* record that Randy California made that someone should reissue. I'll bet this record pisses off Clapton and that's good enough for me.

Tip: *R.I.P. Ron Asheton. Your guitar playing on the first two Stooges records perfectly sums up midwestern frustration, boredom, isolation, and alienation. Every single person in a rock band since 1970 owes you something and Iggy owes you the most.*

SHAN-SHE-PHIL-SPECTRA-ZOMBELLE

(Rock Floor Denizen)
International Woman Of Mystery & Intrigue:
Mind Reader, Musician, Producer,
Miniature philosopher.
Girl-Group enthusiast.
Spector, Morton, Lieber & Stoller,
Carol King paramour.

The Dead Science – *Villainaire*

(CONSTELLATION)

This is a band I always try to see whenever they come out to LA from their dwelling in Seattle. Dark and romantic! They're the boys you'd like to take home for dinner. Your grandparents would love them; their old fashion threads, manners, divinely handsome sex appeal... Aye Caramba! Sam Mickens with his voice reminiscent of Nina Simone and David Bowie's potential love child, it's impossible not to be swooned! Upright/standard bass from Ribbons' Jherek Bischoff & abstract jazz influenced drums of Nick Tamburro. The best band from Seattle, and yes, quote me on that! The album also features Celebration's Katrina Ford & Craig Wedren of Shudder To Think. (Myspace.com/TheDeadScience)

Dalmacio Von Diamond – *The Other Side Of Darkness*

(ALBINO CROW)

This band is out of control. Features members of Holy Curtain, SWFT Wings, Jesus Makes The Shotgun Sound, Lion Fever & countless others. Released on the Albino Crow label, it's far from the Smell's noisy party-scene-sound that's been saturating the wood-works like raging rain drops. Recorded by Moribund Descuzi (JMTSS), the album is bound to have a moody, intimate feel reminiscent of Nick Cave, Pulp & Scott Walker. While still simple pop songs, there's an intensity not heard in many of LA's currenty creeping genius. It's music for tormented lovers, introverted and corrupt. (Myspace.com/ASilentHistory)

The Kinks – *Picture Book* (Boxed Set)

Yeah, yeah. I know you're sick of hearing about it but, The Kinks are forever my favorite band! Ray Davies' Kinks have been a huge influence and companion in my lifetime. The record I would undoubtedly take with me if ever I were stuck solo on an island is *The Kinks Are The Village Green Preservation Society* (which is where the set's title comes from), 1968. It's chock full of his memorial visions of youth, innocence &

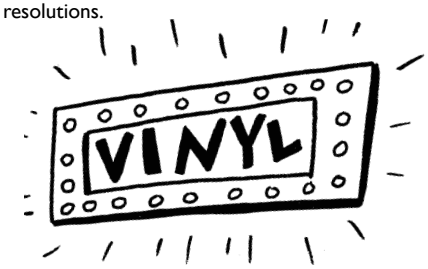
sprinkled with humorous songs of poverty and class wars. Interestingly enough, as I dove farther into The Kinks catalog, I was happy to find that these were recurring themes for Ray — themes that we can still relate to today.

This is a punk compilation, The Kinks were the first punk band — EVER! Don't even think about arguing with me. First band to sing about sticking it to the man on a regular basis and to sing of real life issues. I wonder if Ray even believed in flower power. Because, in a time when everyone was holding hands and singing songs about love, Ray was singing songs about you, me, gas prices, poverty, wealth, love, hate, government, religion and freedom — all of this before The Beatles had the chance to drop acid and dress like gurus in drag.

Ray Davies himself helped in compiling this incredible collection! Over 100 tracks, over 6 CDs (more than 1/3 of which were unreleased or new to CD). 60-page booklet with intro by Ray. Contains interviews with all band members, rare photos & other memorabilia surprises.

gris gris – *Live @ The Creamery*
(BIRDMAN)
It's terribly important to allow yourself the freedom to fall in love with this band, especially if you're a fan of lo-fi, reverb & psych(o)edelia. This is the final release from the band that Oakland lost. Recorded in brainchild Greg Ashley's warehouse-residence for your creamery dreamery. A poet & dreamer from the farthest dimensions, once lost to triumph, now regained through a hazy memory perpetually caught up in the flashing reds and blues & lots and lots of smoke. (Myspace.com/thegrisgris)

Roman Polanski: Wanted And Desired – Directed by Marina Zenovich
I plucked this DVD from my personal long list of interesting and exciting releases because I am such a fan of Roman's work. Anything relating to his complex history or devastating life is of great intrigue to me. This film focuses on Roman's being banned from the U.S. due to (ahem) sex with a minor. The focus is mainly directed towards our own government's systems for dealing with such issues. It's a fascinating documentary that will leave you to make your own resolutions.



SPENCER

pizza lover

The Clean – *Compilation*
For some reason I tend not to like bands from New Zealand, However, The Clean are one of the best punk/post punk/pop bands I have ever heard. This compilation which is available on vinyl is a good alternative to their original vinyl records which go for $50+.

Crocodiles – *Neon Jesus B/W Neon Autobahn 7"*

Blue Jungle – *Baby Don't Cry LP*
(ANTIFIESTA)
limited to 500 copies

The Mae Shi – *HLLLYH*

Tip:
Allah Las (myspace.com/allahlas), Babl Bijits (myspace.com/bablbijits), Man's Assasination Man (myspace.com/mansass)

TERRY SMITH

Security. Father of 3 daughters.

Gran Torino – Directed by Clint Eastwood
Being from Ohio, the midwestern racial humor had me crackin' up. I thought he did a great job. One minute I was crackin' up & then the next, crying like a big baby! Great movie.

The Wrestler – Directed by Darren Aronofsky
Wow. Being 47 and living a full, tuff life this movie had me thinking (or tripping I should say) for days afterwards!

Mad Men - Season 1 & 2
It goes back to the early '60s when I was born & it's a whole other world.

The Shield
Once again, start with season 1 & you can't stop watching.

Lakeview Terrace – Directed by Neil LaBute
This movie was a trip. I was with my youngest & she hated Samuel L. after this movie. He was great, like always.

TREVOR

Guns N' Roses – *Chinese Democracy*
Well he did it. I never thought it would come true but Axl Rose seemed to know how bad of a year I was having and by putting this out, I felt a lot better. Thanks Mr. Rose. You may be an old school fan of GN'R and a little reluctant to check out what feels like a solo record but fear not, it ROCKS! Axl's lyrics are amazing and the new band is tight. The Best Buy thing sucked but this is Amoeba. We have everything. So check it out.

Cloud Cult – *Feel Good Ghosts (Tea Partying Through Tornadoes)*
All can say is "WOW." There is so much going on in this record. It's a wonder that MTV hasn't tried to rape this to the kids. Or maybe they have. I have no TV. Nevertheless it's some really good music.

RocknRolla – Directed by Guy Ritchie
It's kind of funny Guy Ritchie with Madonna. Bad without Good. I really had a fun time in this movie.

Transsiberian – Directed by Brad Anderson
If you don't know Brad Anderson's work now's a good time to get to know a master. Every one of his films is pure cinema magic. In *Transsiberian* we are in an intense train ride from Beijing to Moscow. And things get odd. Woody Harrelson, Emily Mortimer and Ben Kingsley give remarkable performances in a movie filled with deception.

Zack and Miri Make a Porno – Directed by Kevin Smith
I'm a sucker for movies of Love. I thought this was a comedy. Turns out it's a love story, a good love story.

Why? – *Almost Live From Eli's Live Room* (ANTICON)
If it weren't for Jonathan "yoni" Wolf I would still be listening to music from the '90s. Damn this guy and his band are the most amazing musicians I've seen in a long time. Check out anything from Why? and you shall see.

TUNA

Check out my zine, What's the Jam? myspace.com/whatsthejam

Brigitte Bardot – *Brigitte Bardot*
(UNIVERSAL/MERCURY)
Her stuff got reissued on vinyl. It was a good choice on their part. You should probably get it, and you should probably dance a little bit more. Hooray French pop!

Trash Talk – *Trash Talk*
(TT COLLECTIVE)
I get pretty mad when I listen to Trash Talk. It's pretty awesome when a record boils your blood, in the best way possible. Hooray for hardcore.

David Byrne & Brian Eno – *Everything That Happens Will Happen Today*
This cd is the perfect combination of layers. Gloom pop at its finest. Hooray David Byrne!

Flux of Pink Indians – *Not So Brave* (OVERGROUND RECORDS)
Post punk at its best. Someone told Flux that angry dancers are the best dancers. They were right. Hooray for danceable anarcho punk.

Des Jeunes Gens Modernes – Various Artists (BORN BAD RECORDS)
This is a French compilation of the post punk/electro/dance scene from 78-83. It's track after track of electric mayhem, and I like it. Hooray for dancing.

VIOLA

World buyer who helps build wells in Ethiopia (www.villagepace.org)

Rodriguez – *Cold Fact*
(LIGHT IN THE ATTIC)
I must admit that I heard this CD in another record store but it jolted me out of the world music section towards the cashier: I had to know who this guy was... I was vaguely reminded of the first time I heard Bob Dylan. A song-writer from Detroit, socially conscious lyrics ("Rich Folks Hoax...") - though his style is hard to categorize or explain. Yes, it's an old recording but totally not dated.

Rokia Traore – *Tchamantche*
(NONESUCH)
Rokia Traore lives in Europe and Africa, and her music reflects that. She relies on sublety and emotion, creating a fusion of traditional and contemporary

elements, always more experimental than other African artists. This new album has a very lush yet delicate sound, and it was well worth the wait!

Mahmoud Ahmed – *The Best of Mahmoud Ahmed* (AIT)
Best known from the Ethiopiques series or even that old "Ere Mela Mela" classic on *CRAMMED* (also on this CD), this fairly recent recording on a domestic Ethiopian label shows that this singer, who won the BBC world music award in 2007, has not lost it. In fact he still outdoes most younger singers in his country (check videos...); his voice is still more soulful and seductive over the loping rhythm — imagine the dancing to "Derra" . . . Cheaper than a ticket to Addis Ababa.

Franco & Le Tpok Jazz – *Francophonic: Africa's Greatest - A Retrospective Vol. 1 (1953-80)*
(STERNS)
Franco was the most popular African artist ever —unfortunately not known in the west, except to a few world music fans. This collection may set the record straight and share with us some of his hits that were famous not just in the Congo, a country which still has a wealth of rhythms to introduce if there's ever a way. See the video "Jupiter's Dance" about more of that.

Tip: *www.mondomix.org = European world website*

ZAC BOUVION

Jazz Room / All Over

Jazkamer – *Art Breaker*
(SMALLTOWN SUPERJAZZ)
Reminds me of bands like Arab On Radar, early Locust, Luttenbachers, Painkiller, etc. Blown-out Blast Beats, Screaming, and Mangled Guitar, all in 20 second bites. Remember the '90s?

Ursula Bogner – *Collected Recordings 1969-1988*
(FAITICHE [GERMANY])
Whimsical soundscapes and minimal electronic environments, from a true outsider. Uninfluenced by any clique or movement of creators — closest comparison might be some BBC Radiophonic stuff. Sounds from inside Space Mountain?

The Wicked Witch – *Chaos 1978-1986* (EM RECORDS [JAPAN])
Totally dazzling reissue. Sounds like Suicide playing DC Go-Go. The most non-offensive slap-bass ever, slightly askew vocals that recall Gary Wilson — an

overall icy Certain Ratio brand of funk. The Death Comet Crew stuff with Rammellzee is a good point of reference.

No-Neck Blues Band – *Clomeim*
(LOCUST MUSIC)
Less motorik & Kraut-inspired than Qvaris, this is a slight return to NNCK's more acoustic earlier clatter. Scary music box sounds that would work awesome in a Bava film, and some disorienting Master Musicians of Jajouka horns.

Akira Ishikawa & Count Buffalo – *Uganda: Afurikan Rokku no Yoake* (TILIQUILA [JAPAN])
Japanese psychedelic loners experiment with African music in '72. Prog organ, hand drums, Mbira thumb piano, and some sub-Mahavishnu guitar shredding. Pretty unique.

Karel Velebny – *SHQ* (ESP-DISK)
Velebny & Hampel are two crucial European free improv documents from early in the "fire music" era (1964-66), reissued from the original ESP-Disk Catalog. For fans of Brotzmann, Evan Parker, and FMP/Company scenes.

Gunter Hampel Group – *Music From Europe* (ESP-DISK)

***Mother of Tears* – Directed by Dario Argento**
Better than I'd imagined. Granted, the production value of the title/credits sequence looks like 1970s cable-access, this one's got tasteful CGI, a nice attempt to tie into the narrative of the *3 Mothers Trilogy*, another Asia Argento shower scene directed by her Dad, and Udo Kier(!). Not as shocking as early Argento, but a great later piece of sleazy euro-horror.

Jandek – *Ready For The House*
(CORWOOD/JACKPOT)
If you want to explore Jandek, there's no better place to start than at birth (...or *Chair Beside A Window*). I've snagged some Corwood vinyl, but never the first! Too bad they didn't reproduce the original Units cover. Fascinating as all get out.

Tip: *Top live aktions 08: Wolf Eyes, Sunn0))), Cluster, Alan & Richard Bishop, Nervous Gender, Urinals, Earthless, Boris. Throbbing Gristle 09?!*

REBECCA

I like shiny things.

***The Duchess* – Directed by Saul Dibb**
I am sucker for costume dramas, but just watch this one for Ralph Fiennes. He takes what could have been a one-dimensional, hate-able villain and shows you his underlying helplessness — he simply doesn't know how to be anything else — and thereby turns evil into tragedy.

***I've Loved You So Long* – Directed by Philippe Claudel**
Yet another French film where the actors are allowed to act, and viewers are allowed to watch and wait and draw their own conclusions. Kristin Scott Thomas does an amazing job as a woman returning to life after 15 years in prison for a terrible crime — and in French!

***Man On Wire* – Directed by James Marsh**
This documentary about Philippe Petit's wire walk between the Twin Towers will have your palms sweating just thinking about it. Marsh seamlessly integrates reenactments, archival footage and interviews from the irrepressible Petit and crew.

***Happy-Go-Lucky* – Directed by Mike Leigh**
It's nice to see a film about an optimist.

***Let The Right One In* – Directed by Tomas Alfredson**
A vampire movie that's really about loneliness and desperation. A gorgeous example of how less is more (when it comes to effects and gore), it's a classic, begging the question, why is Hollywood bothering with a remake?

KAREN

nerves of gold...heart of steel.
no....wait.

Man On Wire
documentary about the famous wirewalk between the two towers of the world trade center. poignant and emotionally layered---brings up questions of passion and relationships and risks; as well as bravery or stupidity (and how often that wire is so....precarious). well worth it. you will love it.

Trouble The Water
first hand document of KATRINA and her devastation. an amazing film. nominated for an academy award. the power of the hurricane was rivaled by the power of the individual people featured. true independent and unique spirits who weren't gonna be drowned (or drowned out). their voices are HEARD in this film.

Frozen River
softly revealing the lives of quiet desperation. the writing and the acting in this small film are so good, you get lost in the moments and forget that you are watching a movie.

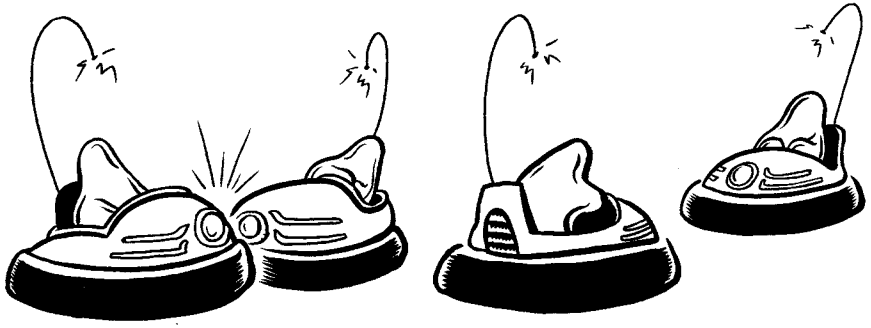
I've Loved You So Long
just an exquisite performance. kristin scott thomas makes this film a deep revelation. her performance is so rich with nuance and honesty. the movie is completely compelling. i sat riveted by her face and her slow evolution. no explosions. no gimmicks, no CGI graphics or car chases—just sheer exposed humanity.

Let The Right One In
not your average vampire movie. this swedish film has such a delicate tenderness it took me by surprise. a story about couple of pale, lonely kids who stumble onto each other on a frigid winter night outside their apartment building—only to find themselves home to each other.

P.S.: *the documentary section at amoeba ROCKS!*

....and now to my soulful, introspective, melancholy music list (with a few dance numbers thrown in for good measure):

William Elliott Whitmore – Animals In The Dark
every record he has done has made it onto my lists. i love his voice and his gritty earthiness. his voice sounds like it has been scarred by life and pain and cigarette smoke. like ray lamontagne, only not as



sweet. more like a whiskey-drenched tom waits. he sounds like an appalachian otis redding. and his ballads are as soulful. "there's hope for you, yes, there is hope for you....but it's much too late for me" banjo and cello and a slight touch of hammond b-3 make this record sparse and beautiful and as real as it gets . . .

Ane Brun – *Changing Of The Seasons*
this delicate voiced singer-songwriter from norway has a forlorn and wistful sound without being overly sentimental. she delivers her quirky songs without apology. quite refreshing.

Los Campesinos! – *Hold On Now, Youngster....*
i LOVE LOVE LOVE this band. high energy, toe-tapping shenanigans. "broken heartbeats sound like breakbeats" these guys are so much fun. fer reals. put it on—i dare you not to dance.

K'naan – *Troubadour*
giving hip-hop an infusion. and a transfusion.

Alice Russell – *Pot Of Gold*
more "blue eyed soul" from england? yeah, but this record is BURSTING with soul, and the rich production enhances it instead of drowning it. her voice is lush and smoldering as well as downright funky. her version of "crazy" is.....somethin' else. gotta hear it.

Anthony Hamilton – *The Point Of It All*
this guy is just so smooth. his voice melts like butter through the nooks and crannies of your soul.

Antony And The Johnsons – *The Crying Light*
i waited a long time for this. antony's voice feels like....glowing streetlamps on a misty new orleans morning. a bath of moonlight on a silent bayou. awash with sadness and tenderness and....whatever your own particular version of heaven is. his voice is translucent and transcendent.

Fucked Up – *Chemistry Of Common Life*
FUCK YEAH!!!!

Zakarya – *The True Story Concerning Martin Behaim*
new from the tzadik label: radical jewish culture. this is klezmer punk rock!! creative, complex, soothing, intelligent, thoughtful. this is a concept album: an imaginary film score about the life of the 15th century thinker who was the first to represent the world as a sphere. thick like black bean chili.

Jason Isbell & The 400 Unit – *Jason Isbell & The 400 Unit*
a new discovery. this guy has a true southern feel. earthy and moody. i'm always skeptical of these young kids who claim the blues — but he seems to really have 'em. country blues, that is. recorded at muscle shoals studio, he and his crew seem to be genuinely channeling the early artists of those days (wilson pickett, staple singers, you know....) instrumentation of slide guitar and accordion and mouth harp. his voice is the gravelly anti-antony as etheral as antony is; jason isbell is OF the earth.

Neko Case – *Middle Cyclone*
her voice is like.....ummmm.....well.....like....nuthin' i can think of to describe it. i've loved her voice since the new pornographers---sort of part coyote, part patsy cline. she wails and sails with her lyrics. this follow up to the dark and thoughtful "fox confessor brings the flood" seems more pop solid. but she's still a mystery.

Morrissey – *Years of Refusal*
stop arguing about it. just put it on and D-A-N-C-E !!

Loney Dear – *Dear John*
the album jacket describes it as "soulful, indie folk" which is pretty spot on. more uplifting than melancholy, this record is filled with sweet pop harmonies and interesting rhythms to keep it from getting too sticky.

Elvis Perkins – *Elvis Perkins In Dearland*
inspired by a new orleans second line fusion of grief and celebration, this is a multi-textured record with a lot of spirit. gets better with each listen.

Fred Frith – *To Sail, To Sail*
solo acoustic guitar from the experimental music master. classical and free form, bluesy and filled with soul. this is a beautiful record which pulls you in if you let it. so spare and so full.

Arve Henriksen – *Cartography*
a seriously beautiful and interesting record. echoes await. listen deeply. it is well worth it.

Sonny Stitt – *Sits In With The Oscar Peterson Trio*
one of the fresh batch of verve reissues from the late '50s and early '60s. (other notable releases in the "originals" series are some grimy jams from jimmy smith and classic albums by gato barbieri, roy ayers, et al....) this is another testament to that label and the icons of the "verve era". one of the more amazing and soulful alto players (along with johnny hodges, paul desmond, sonny criss, and occasional forays from sonny rollins), sonny stitt echoes parker and hodges but brings his own wistful swingin' style. fast fingers and moanful melodies make him forever soaring above the rest. oscar peterson is one of the most fluid and inspirational masters of the keys. and his trio of ray brown on bass and ed thigpen on drums, is one of the funkiest jazz trios ever. recorded in paris in 1959, the easy funky vibe of the session makes you feel like you are sitting in the room with them. hanging on the couch while they ooze and groove their late night mellow....

Keith Jarrett/Gary Peacock/Jack DeJohnette – *Yesterdays*
live recordings of this incomparable trio from 2001. what more is there to say?

Auburn Lull – *Begin Civil Twilight*
my ambient friend chris gave me this and it is really beautiful. sensuous and dreamy.

John Scofield – *Piety Street*
gospel tinged, soul-infused, blues-dipped funk. righteous!

India.Arie – *Testimony: Vol. 2 — Love & Politics*
groovy. filled with more hope than heartbreak this time.

Jazmine Sullivan – *Fearless*
a deep canyon voice with infectious beats.

NASA – *The Spirit Of Apollo*
despite many cooks in this kitchen (a who's who of hip-hop and alternative rock icons), this is a funky cold medina of tight rhythms and juicy surprises.

Ben Kweller – *Changing Horses*
pedal steel, harmonies, and twang . . . what more could you ask for?

Lisa Hannigan – *Sea Sew*
whisper-quiet to bell clear, her voice is tender and sweet.

Andrew Bird – *Noble Beast*
another sweet and tender voice. a vividly musical album. try it.

Also worth exploring:
healamonster & tarsier – *cupcake cave;* freshly watered sidewalks – *this contract limits our liability;* vetiver – *tight knit;* m. ward – *hold time;* abe vigoda – *reviver EP;* parson red heads – *owl and timber*; ray ricky rivera – *neighborhood fame;* dark was the night – *red hot compilation;* beirut – *march of the zapotec;* dan auerbach (from the black keys) – *keep it hid;* buddy and julie miller – *written in chalk;* bela fleck – *throw down your heart*

hot-tip:
if you get the chance to see esperanza spalding live — DO IT!!! she is a wonder. beautiful voice with major chops on upright bass. the spirit flows right through her and you can't help but feel it.

NOTES:

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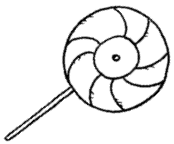

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